



MEDIA RELEASE

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NCPC to Review National Mall Plan

*Also on the agenda: Federal Triangle Signage, Fort Belvoir
Administration Buildings, and Southwest Waterfront Informational Presentation*

Washington, DC – At its monthly meeting today at 12:30 p.m. the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) will review three action items, including the National Mall Plan. Submitted and developed by the National Park Service (NPS), the plan is a comprehensive long-term stewardship and management framework that will provide an overall vision for the approximately 684-acre symbolic landscape that serves as America's preeminent civic gathering place.

The plan provides guidance for the Mall's cultural and natural resources as well as improvement of its physical condition. It aims to improve the overall visitor experience, creates and improves sites for national celebrations and special events, and accommodates First Amendment demonstrations. Improved pedestrian and cycling paths, new transit services, and other improvements will facilitate access and mobility. New signs will better serve visitors, as will new information kiosks, new and improved restrooms, and new food services. The plan calls for additional facilities for recreation and entertainment and seeks to create an overall identity for the National Mall as a year-round destination.

The draft National Mall Plan complements other current planning efforts including NCPC and CFA's *Monumental Core Framework Plan*, the District's Center City Action Agenda, and the U.S. Capitol Complex Master Plan developed by the Architect of the Capitol.

The Commission today also will provide comments on plans submitted by the General Services Administration to add twenty-six exterior signs for seven buildings it owns or manages in the Federal Triangle. The new signs will replace existing signage at the Department of Commerce, Ronald Reagan International Trade Center, Ariel Ross Building, Old Post Office Pavilion, Internal Revenue Service, Department of Justice, and the Federal Trade Commission. The signs would be constructed of double-sided aluminum and be dark bronze in color. Lettering and symbols would have a lighter bronze silkscreen. Each sign would be 9' tall, 2' 6" wide, and 3" thick.

In the final action item before the Commission, the Department of the Army is asking for approval of preliminary and final site and building plans for two new administration facilities at Fort Belvoir. The first facility will house 433 employees of the Office of the Chief of Army Reserve in an 88,470 square foot building. The second will house 420 employees of the United States Army Legal Services Administration and Army Audit Agency in a 97,300 square foot square foot building. Both operations are moving to Fort Belvoir as a result of the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure recommendations (BRAC).

Before adjourning, PN Hoffman will provide the Commission with an overview of its development plans for the Southwest Waterfront. While NCPC will take no action on this informational presentation, comments by the Commission will be taken into consideration before the project goes through the zoning process. The Commission will formally review the project in 2011.

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This month's agenda also includes one consent calendar item (no presentations given):

- Preliminary and final site and building plans for the replacement of Gate 5 and modification of internal roadways at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland.

The final agenda, along with staff recommendations for each project under review, can be found here:
http://www.ncpc.gov/DocumentDepot/Final_Agendas/FinalAgenda_Current.pdf

The National Capital Planning Commission is the federal government's central planning agency in the District of Columbia and surrounding counties in Maryland and Virginia. The Commission provides overall planning guidance for federal land and buildings in the region. It also reviews the design of federal projects and memorials, oversees long-range planning for future development, and monitors capital investment by federal agencies.

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