

For Immediate Release
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***NCPC Approves Revised Preliminary Plans for Eisenhower Memorial
Commission Also Provided Comments on Constitution Gardens Rehabilitation Concepts and
Naval Research Laboratory Draft Master Plan***

Washington, DC – At its monthly meeting on October 2, 2014 the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) approved revised preliminary site and building plans for the Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial. In its approval the Commission noted that the revised design is now consistent with seven design guidelines adopted by NCPC as part of its action to approve the memorial site in 2006.

The revised design, submitted by the National Park Service on behalf of the Eisenhower Memorial Commission, eliminates the previously proposed east and west stainless steel tapestries, and replaces them with two freestanding columns placed at the site's northeast and northwest corners. These columns are in alignment with the end columns of the south tapestry in front of the U.S. Department of Education.

It was noted that the Commission's previous comments regarding pedestrian circulation, perimeter security, and lighting were not yet addressed. The Commission requested that the applicant return prior to NCPC's final review of the memorial, to report on modifications made to the memorial design to address these issues, and how other design elements have been further developed. No date has been set for this review.

The Commission then strongly supported concept plans to rehabilitate Constitution Gardens and create a vibrant park space on the National Mall. These plans were submitted by the National Park Service in partnership with the Trust for the National Mall. Dedicated in 1976 to celebrate the Bicentennial, Constitution Gardens provides a contrast to the more formal features found on the rest of the National Mall.

Three concepts designs were presented, and the Commission commented favorably on the third Hybrid Alternative concept that combines features of the first two alternatives. These include the addition of an 18" retaining wall along Constitution Avenue, NW; an increase in the site's grade by four to eight feet; the addition of a wetland along the lake's perimeter; the rehabilitation and relocation of the existing historic lockkeeper's house southwest of its current location at the corner of Constitution Avenue and 17th Street, NW; and the addition of a pavilion at the lake's eastern shore.

Before adjourning the Commission provided comments on the draft master plan for the Naval Research Laboratory, a 132-acre facility located along the Potomac River south of Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling. Submitted by the U.S. Department of the Navy, the draft master plan has two parts: a 5-year short-term component which includes a collection of programmed projects and a 20-year long-term component consisting of a collection of plans (systems) that provide a comprehensive, long-term planning scenario for the facility.

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The Commission supported the plan's overarching organization and content for the installation that provides research, development, and testing/evaluation facilities for the Navy. In its comments, the Commission noted that the site's existing employee population is expected to increase by 615 over the next five years (to 5,487) and that sites for two proposed building additions are close to existing floodplains. Among its comments regarding the longer 20-year plan, the Commission noted that certain modifications will be necessary to make the Potomac River shoreline more sustainable; allow for a more consolidated distribution of employee parking; and allow for a more sensitive treatment of the site's historic Central Mall.

This month's agenda also included two consent calendar items (no presentations were given):

- Final master plan for the Naval Support Facility Carderock, located in West Bethesda, Maryland (MP98)
- Preliminary site and building plans for the Quantico Middle/High School located on the Marine Corps Base Quantico, Quantico, Virginia (7597)

In addition, the Executive Director approved six items under authorities delegated by the Commission. The final agenda and staff recommendations are available on [NCPC's website](#).

The National Capital Planning Commission is the federal government's central planning agency in the District of Columbia and surrounding counties of Maryland and Virginia. The Commission provides overall 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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