



## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **NCPC Approves Constitution Gardens First Phase Rehabilitation Plans**

*Comprehensive Plan's Federal Elements released for 60-day public comment period*

**Washington, DC** – At its October 1, 2015 monthly meeting, the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) approved preliminary and final site and building plans submitted by the National Park Service for the first phase rehabilitation of Constitution Gardens. Plans include the relocation and rehabilitation of the Lockkeeper's House, a new entry plaza at the corner of Constitution Avenue and 17<sup>th</sup> Street, NW, landscaping, and a new perimeter garden wall. A temporary path will connect to an existing plaza located at the eastern end of Constitution Garden's lake.

Located on the National Mall between the Lincoln Memorial and 17<sup>th</sup> Street, NW, Constitution Gardens was originally dedicated in 1976 as part of the Bicentennial. The Lockkeeper's House was originally built in 1837 and located since 1915 at the intersection of Constitution Avenue and 17<sup>th</sup> Street, NW. Once rehabilitated and relocated to a site southwest of its current location, it will become a visitor education center, park management office, and donor recognition site. The National Park Service developed phase one plans in partnership with the Trust for the National Mall. In 2012 the Trust organized a national design competition and chose PWP Landscape Architecture to design the plans.

The Commission then approved preliminary site and building plans submitted by the U.S. Department of State to add perimeter security to the Harry S Truman Building. The first phase includes a 5,100 square foot security pavilion on D Street, NW and perimeter security improvements on D, 21<sup>st</sup>, C, 22<sup>nd</sup>, and 23<sup>rd</sup> Streets. These include freestanding bollards, bollards with rails, and stone-clad walls that will complement the building.

In its approval the Commission noted that the Department of State should consider several modifications before submitting the plan for final approval. These include aligning the bollards in a way so that they don't interfere with pedestrians, further developing security elements so that they seamlessly integrate into the streetscape, providing additional seating, and integrating directional and interpretative signage about the agency's mission and the building's history.

Located at 2201 C Street, NW, the 2.5 million square foot building is the State Department headquarters and was constructed in two phases. The original War Department Building, now known as the Marshall Wing, was built in 1941 and the New State building was constructed in 1960.

NCPC provided comments to the Department of the Navy on the draft installation master plan for the Marine Barracks Washington located in the city's southeastern quadrant. The plan's main project is the relocation of Building 20 from its current location on I Street, SE adjacent to the Southeast Freeway to the Marine Barracks Washington Annex, located on L Street, SE. In its comments NCPC noted that the proposed location of the new barracks would be in the 6<sup>th</sup> Street, SE right-of-way that was identified in a 2002 covenant signed by the Navy and the National Park Service as a protected viewshed. If the Navy decides to pursue its preferred site then it would need to take several actions prior to resubmitting the project for NCPC review.

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Constructed in the 1970's, the 215,000 sq. ft. Building 20 serves as an enlisted men's barracks for Marines. However, due to its location adjacent to the freeway the building no longer meets new security standards. The Navy has not developed long-term plans for Building 20, but will continue to utilize its underground parking once a new barracks is constructed.

The Commission approved releasing the entire *Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital: Federal Elements*, except for the Parks & Open Space Element, for a 60-day public comment period. Following completion of the comment period, staff will incorporate any additional feedback and then bring the Comprehensive Plan back before the Commission for final adoption. Once this is done, the updated elements will be put into effect. The Comp Plan may be viewed at [www.ncpc.gov/compplan/](http://www.ncpc.gov/compplan/). The Parks & Open Space Element will be updated in FY 2016-2017 after the completion of a Small Parks Management Study being developed by NCPC and National Park Service staff.

Before adjourning, the Commission heard an information presentation on the 1974 *Pennsylvania Avenue Plan* and the process for amending the plan in anticipation for potential future redevelopment of Squares 378 and 379, the current site of the FBI's J. Edgar Hoover Building. NCPC staff anticipates presenting a recommended plan amendment to the Commission in December to allow for the expansion of allowed uses on these squares. No action is taken on information presentations.

In addition, the Executive Director approved one item under authority delegated by the Commission. The final agenda and staff recommendations for each project 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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