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Stephen Staudigl  
[stephen@ncpc.gov](mailto:stephen@ncpc.gov) or 202-482-7279

Julia Koster  
[julia@ncpc.gov](mailto:julia@ncpc.gov) or 202-482-7211

**NCPC Approved Final Plans for President Franklin D. Roosevelt Prayer Plaque**  
*Commission Provided Feedback on Goddard Space Flight Center and Wolf Trap Master Plans*

**Washington, DC**—At its [June 3, 2021 meeting](#) the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) approved preliminary and final site development plans submitted by the National Park Service, on behalf of the Friends of the National World War II Memorial, to add a free-standing plaque with the words from President Franklin D. Roosevelt's June 6, 1944 prayer for the nation to the World War II Memorial's Circle of Remembrance. The Circle of Remembrance, located northwest of the memorial between the memorial's Atlantic Arch and Constitution Gardens, is a location for quiet contemplation.

The prayer plaque is bronze metal with a dark background patina and raised gold lettering. It will be placed atop a 30-inch-tall granite entry wall and supported by a dark metal frame. Visitors reading its words will face the memorial's Atlantic Arch. The Commission supported the plaque's design because it will improve the Circle of Remembrance and better integrate it with the World War II Memorial. They found that the plaque's location within the Circle of Remembrance completes the circle's geometry.

The Commission also supported a proposal for site improvements to the Circle of Remembrance that includes new stone benches and walls (that better match materials at the memorial), plantings, lighting under the stone benches, and enhancement of the center of the circle with a central element. The bench, wall, and paving materials will complement materials used in the memorial.

NCPC provided feedback to NASA on a draft master plan for the 1,270-acre Goddard Space Flight Center located in Greenbelt, Maryland. The campus, established in 1959, currently has more than 8,300 employees and more than 4.11 million gross square feet of facilities. The draft master plan would guide campus development over the next 20 years by detailing the desired future conditions, outlining specific facilities and projects to be implemented in phases, and developing a campus planning framework.

The draft master plan, to replace one last updated in 2003, would reduce overall development by 25 percent to 3.04 million square feet while keeping the number of employees at 8,300. It is anticipated that the number of employees teleworking would increase from .4 percent to 40 percent. Parking spaces would be reduced from 6,979 parking spaces to 6,385, changing its parking ratio to 1 (parking space) to 1.3 (employees).

NCPC supported the draft plan's vision to "create a sustainable, walkable and vibrant campus comprised of modern adaptable facilities within a natural setting" and proposed elements that include reorganization of the main campus around a linear pedestrian zone framed by new and renovated buildings; reorientation of the main entrance to ICESat Road near a new visitor's center; and the addition of walkways, bicycle lanes, sidewalks, multi-use pathways, and street trees.

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Commission discussion focused largely on the issue of parking and whether the proposed parking space reduction is enough to meet the Comprehensive Plan's parking ratio and what number of parking spaces are utilized each day. They requested to see several items in the final master plan submission including a parking plan that identifies and describes the existing amount of parking and the amount of parking to be added and removed on campus; surface parking lot standards and guidelines; information on tree replacement; guidance for the placement of rooftop solar panels and/or antennas; further details on proposed mitigation for the removal of historic buildings within the National Register eligible historic district; information about the potential disposal of the campus' Area 400; and more details about stormwater management.

NCPC provided feedback to the National Park Service, and the Wolf Trap Foundation, on a concept master plan for the Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts located in Vienna, Virginia. Wolf Trap is the only national park dedicated to the performing arts. Authorized by Congress in 1966, Wolf Trap contains three outdoor performance venues: the Filene Center, the Children's Theater-in-the-Woods, and the Meadow Pavilion and has 2,700 2,800 parking spaces, including 41 accessible spaces, in paved and turf grass lots.

The proposed concept master plan will build upon and adjust elements of Wolf Trap's 1997 General Management Plan for its approximately 130-acre campus to meet current and future needs. Components would create amenities; improve accessibility and safety; address transportation access, pedestrian circulation, and stormwater management challenges; address deferred maintenance; improve the visitor and patron experience; and expand opportunities for year-round park use in a manner that protects park resources and retains the park's cultural landscape, outdoor recreation opportunities, and performing arts experiences in an outdoor setting. The Barns at Wolf Trap are not included in the master plan.

The concept master plan proposes to remove existing parking around the loop on Main Circle Road; expand the Main Gate area with improved security; examine the possibility of adding a parking structure on Lot 4; incorporate stormwater management improvements in the East and West Lots; formalize the rideshare loading zone in the West Lot; replace Service Stand A and the South Gate Service Stand; and examine three options to reconfigure the Main Circle Road at the Main Gate

Commissioners were in favor of the concept plan's overall approach including circulation improvements that will make the park more accessible for patrons and reduce potential conflicts between pedestrians and vehicles while adding a ride share service area and dedicated bus passenger loading area. They recommended considering adding Metro shuttle service to the Silver Line's Spring Hill station for large events to reduce parking demand which can overwhelm current supply. They requested a wayfinding plan, summary of proposed safety and security approaches at the Main Gate, and information about the possible parking deck. They recommended adding more trees in the east and west parking areas. Of the three Main Circle Road options, they preferred Option C that would add 65 accessible parking spaces on Main Circle Road's West side. This option which would not disrupt views of the Filene Center approach and provide universal access to the Main Gate. Because it would require the removal of healthy trees, Commissioners requested an existing tree survey and a plan to replace those that would be removed.

The Commission heard two information presentations (no official action is taken on information presentations). In the first, staff provided an update on the Smithsonian Institution's plans to revitalize the Hirshhorn Museum's Sculpture Garden, with a focus on proposed changes to the inner partition wall and the reflecting pool. Through the redesign the Smithsonian seeks to improve connections with the National Mall; enhance the visitor experience; create flexible space for artists; showcase the museum's bronze sculpture collection; revitalize the garden's historic framework; replace failing infrastructure; and meet current code requirements.

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In December 2020, the Commission approved preliminary site development plans, except for proposed changes to the garden's reflecting pool and inner partition wall. Since that time, the Smithsonian Institution scaled back plans to expand the existing reflecting pool and developed a new design that retains the original dimensions and location. A proposed new reflecting pool south of it was made smaller to complement the existing pool. The existing inner partition aggregate wall needs to be replaced due to concrete disease. The Smithsonian has proposed to rebuild this wall with stacked stones at a height 18" lower than the existing wall. They believe these changes would provide for increased visibility into the garden from the National Mall, improve the backdrop and acoustics for performances, and complement other new stacked stone walls that would be located elsewhere in the sculpture garden.

Commissioners were generally positive regarding the project's overall goals, including increasing accessibility from the National Mall and the museum (through opening an underground walkway), and the updated pool design, but expressed concerns about the stacked stone concept for the inner partition wall. Several noted that the stacked stone was attractive, but it would mean a significant change in height, material, and shape from the previous wall which would have an impact on the sculpture garden's character. The existing concrete wall is a contributing feature of the museum and sculpture garden, and its replacement needs to be evaluated through the Section 106 process for rehabilitation projects. They noted tension between historic preservation and addressing current program needs. NCPC will review revised preliminary site development plans for the project at its July 1 meeting.

Staff provided an update on the Pennsylvania Avenue Initiative and its work to transform the avenue between the White House and the U.S. Capitol. While it is an important location in the nation's capital, over the years the avenue lost some of its luster and faces issues such as deferred maintenance, flooding, limited daily activity, and security needs. To address these, a partnership of federal and local agencies with jurisdiction over the avenue was created. Its executive committee developed four goals: celebrate the Avenue's civic role and democratic experience; create an awe-inspiring streetscape to complement the Avenue's role and architectural character; reinvigorate the Avenue's circulation and mobility for 21st century needs; and elevate the identity of the Avenue as a great daily destination.

Current efforts are examining how to improve special events programming in the short and long-term, including how to make it a welcoming and inclusive national destination that embodies democratic symbols; how to make it a place for activities supported by innovative infrastructure; and how to make it a vital physical and symbolic link between Washington's local and national facets.

To complement the programming work, the Initiative is also developing three distinct lenses, or conceptual themes, that could guide the process and will be publicly shared later this year: an Urban Capital Street that celebrates local Washington; a Civic Stage that imagines the Avenue as a national event destination; and a Green Street that would transform it into an urban linear park.

To begin the public outreach efforts, an online event will take place on Tuesday, June 29 from noon to 1:30 pm EST. *America's Civic Stage: A Vision to Celebrate Pennsylvania Avenue* will feature presentations by six panelists from commercial real estate, architecture, special events, operations, landscape architecture and transportation who will share their visions for Pennsylvania Avenue. Details are available online at <https://www.ncpc.gov/event/406/>.

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*This month's agenda included eight consent calendar items (no presentations were given). Unless otherwise noted, all projects are in Washington, DC.*

1. Preliminary and final site development plans for the placement of temporary facilities at the Jefferson Memorial. (8274)
2. Preliminary and final site development plans for the rehabilitation of volleyball courts on the National Mall. (8275)
3. Preliminary and final site development plans for 15th Street safety improvements, 15th Street from Pennsylvania Avenue to Maine Avenue, NW. (8272)
4. Final site and building plans for a Wargaming Center, 3019 Emory Loop, Quantico, Virginia. (8212)
5. Preliminary site and building plans for the P734 Main Side Parking Garage, 3019 Emory Loop, Quantico, Virginia. (8273)
6. Final site and building plans for the Humphreys Engineer Center Maintenance and Supply Facility, 7900 John J Kingman Road, Fort Belvoir, Virginia. (8089)
7. Final site and building plans for the Humphreys Engineer Center Training Support Facility, 7900 John J Kingman Road, Fort Belvoir, Virginia. (8225)
8. Comments on concept plans for the modernization of the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center's Building 002, 10300 Baltimore Ave, Beltsville, Maryland. (8277)

*The Executive Director approved six items under authority delegated by the Commission. Unless otherwise noted, all projects are in Washington, DC.*

1. Preliminary and final site development plans for a floating kayak and canoe launch, Chesapeake and Ohio Canal between 33rd and 34th Streets, NW. (8270)
2. Comments on concept plans for renovation of the National Defense University's Eisenhower Hall Building 59, 408 4th Avenue, SW. (8279)
3. Preliminary and final site development plans for a new restroom building at The Fields at RFK Campus, 401 Oklahoma Avenue, NE. (8222)
4. Preliminary and final site and building plans for the government vehicle fueling facility Lot 34, 9000 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, Maryland. (8070)
5. Final site and building plans for revitalization of Stead Park and community center, 1625 P Street, NW. (8209)
6. Comments to the Council of the District of Columbia for the partial closing of an alley in Square 785 - S.O. 21-03369, 316 Frederick Douglass Court, NE. (8276)

*The Vice Chair approved one item under authority delegated by the Commission. Unless otherwise noted, all projects are in Washington, DC.*

1. Transfer of Jurisdiction for intersection improvements, intersection of Pennsylvania Avenue, SE and Minnesota Avenue, SE. (8271)

***Commission actions and related materials are available [online](#).***

*The National Capital Planning Commission is the federal government's central planning agency in Washington, DC 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.*