



MEDIA RELEASE

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NCPCC Approves Preliminary Plans for Vietnam Veterans Visitor Center *Phase 1 Intelligence Community Campus-Bethesda Plans Also Approved*

Washington, DC – In addition to releasing the *SW Ecodistrict Plan* for a 60-day public comment period, the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPCC) today reviewed several other projects. The Commission approved preliminary site and building plans for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Visitor Center as submitted by the National Park Service. In its approval the Commission noted that its [June 2009 comments](#) were addressed and that the center design is now consistent with design guidelines included in NCPCC's Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) issued in conjunction with its approval of the center's site.

Proposed for a 5.2 acre site on the Lincoln Memorial's northern grounds, the underground center will educate the public about the Vietnam War and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. The two-level approximately 37,000 gross square foot visitor center will house exhibit space, a bookstore, restrooms, and lobby space. The exhibits will focus on three themes: Making the Names Visible, The Wall Collection, and The History Timeline.

In its final action, the Commission approved preliminary and final site and building plans for Phase 1 of the Intelligence Community Campus-Bethesda, as submitted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), except for final site development plans for landscape/hardscape, furniture, site security (including, among other items, bollard and barriers), and site lighting. Review of these elements was delegated to NCPCC's executive director after design is completed and submitted. This first phase includes all redevelopment and new construction proposed for the site's North Campus. Today's action concluded deliberations that were deferred from the June 7, 2012 meeting.

The USACE plans to completely redevelop the approximately 39-acre site, former headquarters of the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, into a secure campus for the Defense Intelligence Agency. The 12 acre North Campus is currently used primarily for surface parking. Plans for this area include replacement of existing parking lots with a parking deck, a small visitor parking lot, a new temporary vehicle entrance, vehicle inspection station, visitor control center, and related site and security enhancements.

Before adjourning the Commission heard two information presentations. The first was an update on the status of the *Memorial Trends and Practice in Washington, DC* study conducted by NCPCC in consultation with the National Park Service and the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts. The second informed the Commission on plans for the Purple Line light rail transit line proposed for Montgomery and Prince George's Counties.

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

- Preliminary and final site development plans for a master plan modification and installation of perimeter security and secondary containment fence at the National Zoo.

In addition, the Executive Director approved [five projects](#) under the Commission's delegated authorities. The final agenda, staff recommendations, project materials, and meeting video 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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