Tidal Basin
Revised Development Concept Plan

U.S. Commission of Fine Arts

Meeting Date: November 19, 2026

Agenda

INTRODUCTION

- Project Background
- Purpose and Need
- Project Area
- Consultation and Coordination Timeline

CONCEPT DEVELOPMENT

- Framework for the Development Concept Plan
- Initial Concept

PROPOSED ACTION

- Overview
- Details by Zones

COMMENTS / QUESTIONS



Photo Credit: NPS/Anthony DeYoung

Introduction

Project Background

The DOI is proposing a development concept plan for the Tidal Basin area of the National Mall and Memorial Parks.

This project is part of the stipulations agreed upon by the NPS, the DC Historic Preservation Officer, and the National Capital Planning Commission in a Memorandum of Agreement to resolve the adverse effects resulting from the project for the Rehabilitation of Tidal Basin and West Potomac Park Seawalls.



Photo Credit: NPS/Carol Highsmith

Purpose and Need

Purpose

The purpose is to provide direction for the long-term management and rehabilitation of the Tidal Basin cultural landscape.



Photo Credit: NPS

Need

The project is needed to address the following key issues:

- Heavy visitation and crowds
- Compacted soils, exposed tree roots
- Tidal flooding of sidewalks
- Brackish water damages the cherry trees
- Seawalls and sidewalks are damaged
- Jefferson Memorial security
- Insufficient connections to the city
- Landscape is altered from its original design intent
- NPS unable to keep pace with needed repairs

Project Area

- Part of West Potomac Park
- 250 acres including the Tidal Basin and surrounding landscape
- Includes numerous important areas and memorials

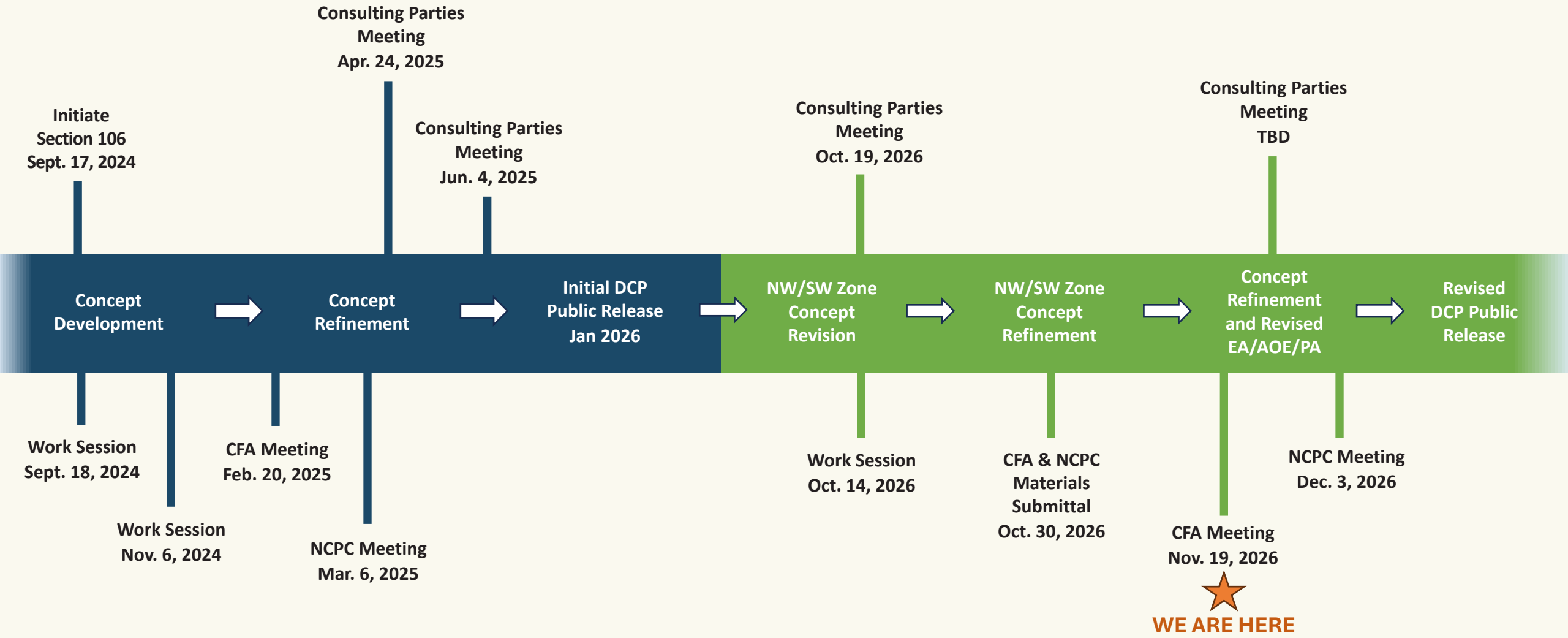


Project Area – Zones

- Part of West Potomac Park
- 250 acres including the Tidal Basin and surrounding landscape
- Includes numerous important areas and memorials



Consultation and Coordination Timeline



Concept Development

Framework for the Development Concept Plan

1. Expand the connectivity of multi-modal circulation and transportation infrastructure
2. Enhance the visitor experience of recreation, vistas and viewsheds, and gathering spaces
3. Manage ecological impacts and rehabilitate vegetation
4. Protect cultural resources
5. Improve security at the Jefferson Memorial



Photo Credit: NPS/Kelsey Graczyk

Initial Development Concept Plan

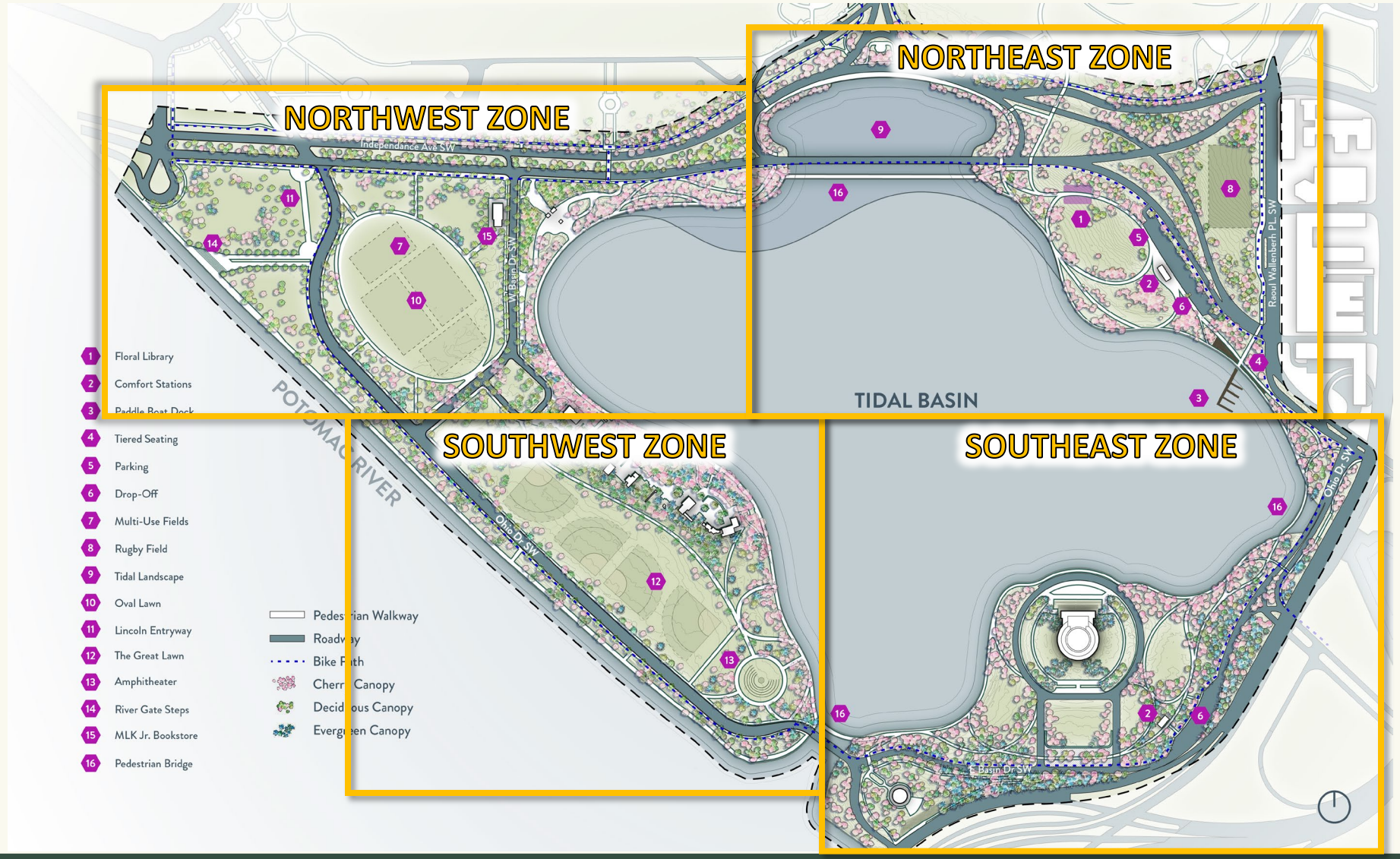


Proposed Action

Proposed Action – Overview



Proposed Action – Overview of Zones



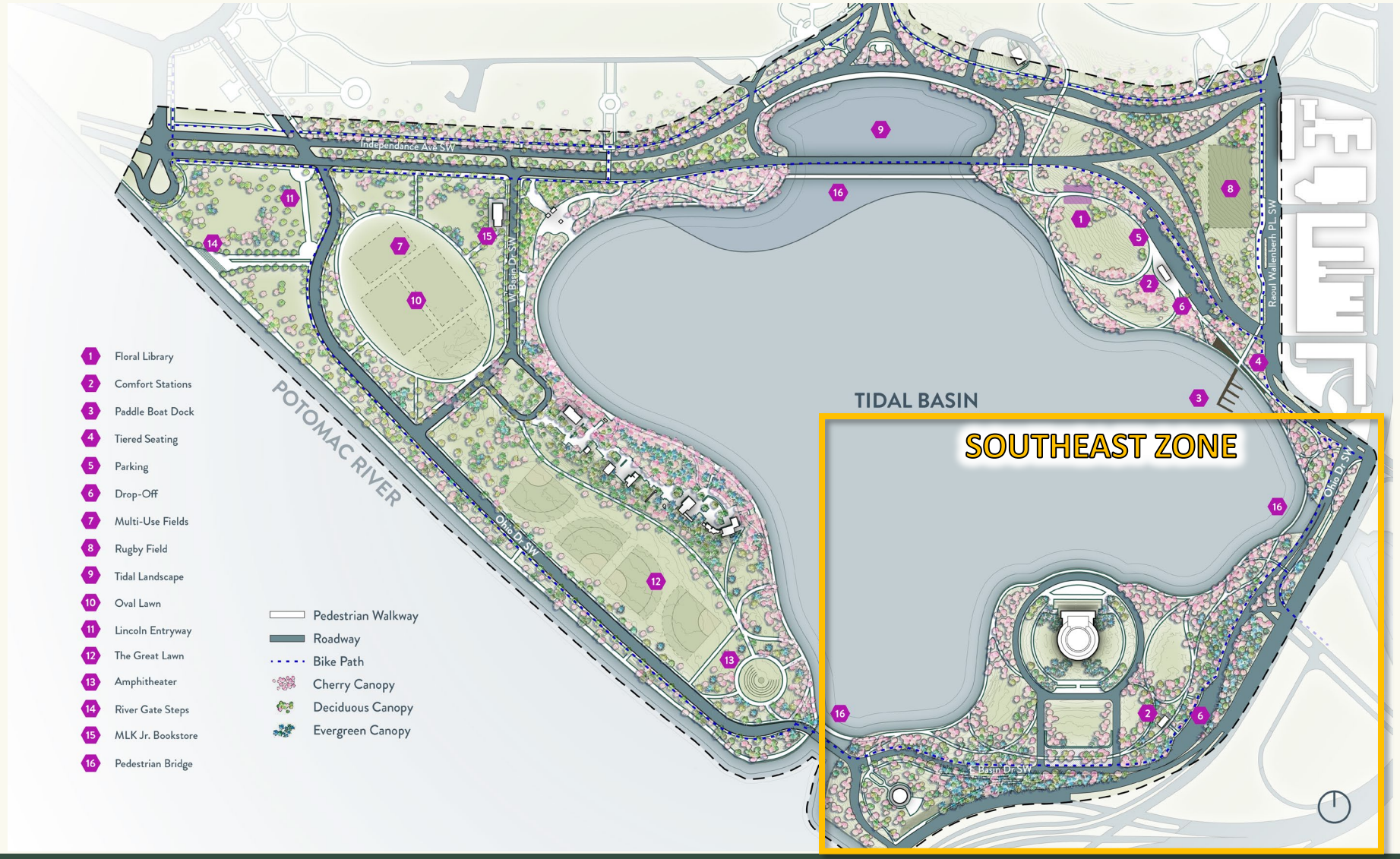
Proposed Action – Northeast Zone



Proposed Action – Northeast Zone



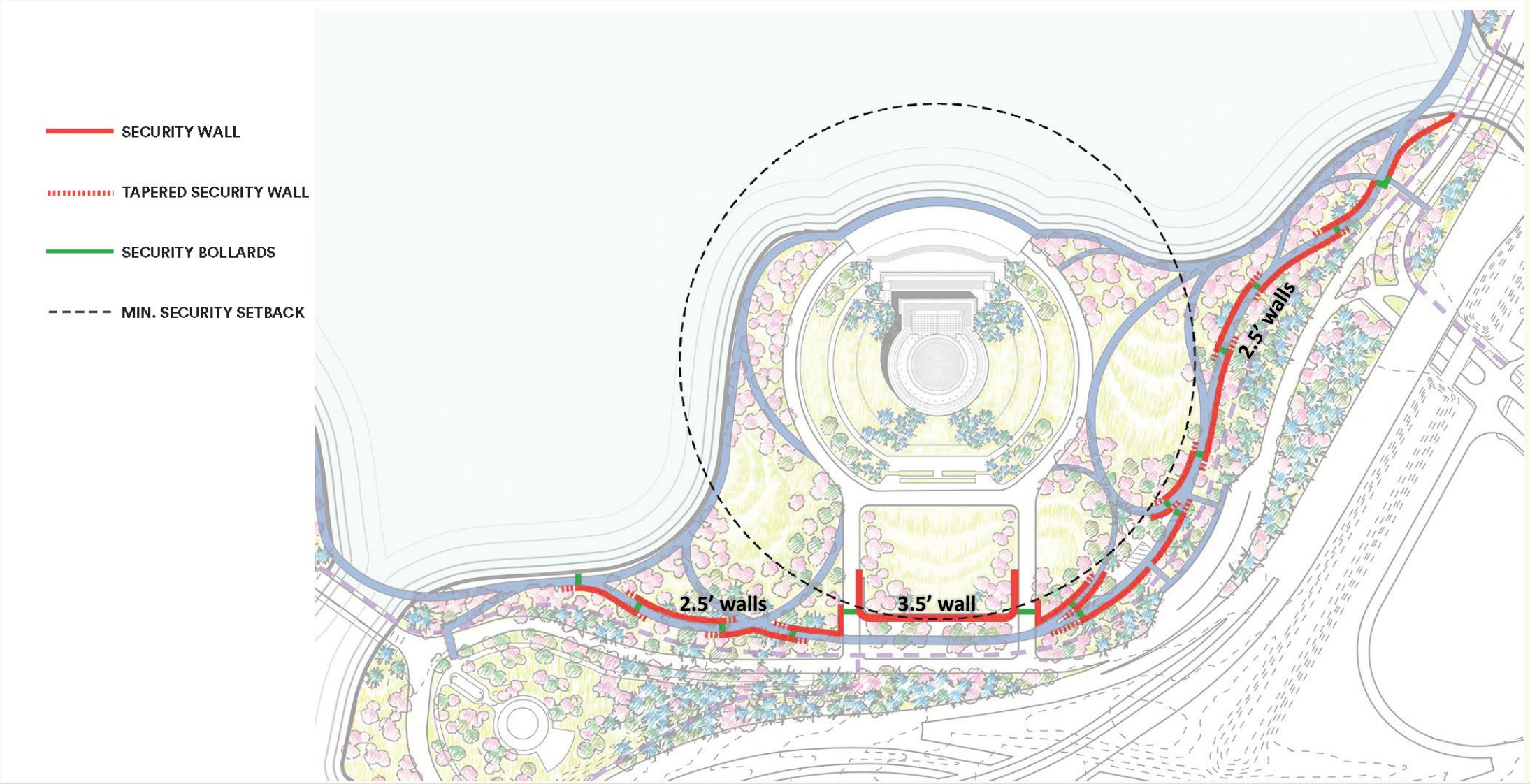
Proposed Action – Southeast Zone



Proposed Action – Southeast Zone



Proposed Action – Southeast Zone – Jefferson Memorial Security



Proposed Action – Northwest Zone



Proposed Action – Northwest Zone



Proposed Action – Southwest Zone



Proposed Action – Southwest Zone



Comments / Questions