



**TESTIMONY OF ERIC SHAW
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF PLANNING**

**BEFORE
THE NEW COLUMBIA STATEHOOD COMMISSION**

MONDAY, JUNE 13, 2016

**CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION
2235 SHANNON PLACE SE, ROOM 2032
WASHINGTON, DC 20020**

Good evening members of the New Columbia Statehood Commission. My name is Eric Shaw, and I am the Director of the District of Columbia Office of Planning. My staff and I and have been working closely with Commission staff to delineate the boundaries of the federal seat of government and of the state of New Columbia.

We have delineated the boundaries based on the following principles:

1. All residences within New Columbia will exist outside of the federal seat of government. The only residence located within the federal seat of government will be the White House;
2. The seat of operations for federal cabinet, congressional and judicial offices, along with prominent federal monuments and memorials will be located within the federal seat of government. There is an exception to this expectation that I will note later; and
3. The boundaries of New Columbia and the federal seat of government would be based on boundaries defined in established planning precedents.

The borders of the District of Columbia are delineated by boundary stones laid in 1791 and 92. These stones are spaced every mile and define a 10-mile by 10-mile square. I have attached below a spreadsheet detailing the GPS coordinates of each of the stones. In 1846 the land located west of the Potomac was retroceded to the Commonwealth of Virginia. Today the borders of the District of Columbia are Eastern Avenue, Western Avenue, Southern Avenue and the western bank of the Potomac River that lies within the original 10-mile by 10-mile square. Twenty-six of the 40 boundary stones are part of the current boundaries of the District of Columbia.

The proposed boundaries for the state of New Columbia will be that of the current boundaries of the District of Columbia, **excluding** the federal seat of government.

We propose that the boundaries for the federal seat of government be based on the planning area identified as the “kite area” within The McMillan Plan of 1901-02 with some modifications to meet the principles that I detailed earlier. The McMillan Plan is recognized as *the* planning document that created what we know as monumental Washington. I have attached below further background on the McMillan Plan, including a description of the “kite area,” drafted by the State Office of Historic Preservation.

Modifications to the kite area defined in The McMillan Plan of 1901-02, to delineate proposed boundaries of the federal seat of government are as follows:

1. The adjustment of the boundaries so that the John A. Wilson Building will be located within the state of New Columbia;
2. The inclusion of the Kennedy Center within the boundaries of the federal seat of government. The Kennedy Center is a prominent memorial erected in honor of President John F. Kennedy;
3. The adjustment of the southwest boundary to follow the alignment of Interstate 395; and

4. The exclusion of an area identified in the National Capital Planning Commission SW EcoDistrict Plan, published in January 2013. This area is bounded by Independence Avenue to the north, Maine Avenue to the south, 12th Street to the west, and 4th Street to the east.

The 15-block EcoDistrict area includes eight federal buildings, eight private buildings, and three federal parks. The federal government has recently initiated efforts to redevelop the properties within this planning area for non-governmental and residential uses.

I have attached below a written description of the boundaries of the federal seat of government and a map showing the boundaries.

The Office of Planning looks forward to continuing to support the New Columbia Statehood Commission on this historic effort.

ATTACHMENT A – LOCATION OF DC BOUNDARY STONES

STONE_NUM	LOCATION_D	NARRATIVE	X	Y	Z	Z_FT	DISTANCE*
NORTH	150 feet west of the exit from Chevy Chase Crest Apts and 20 feet south of the 1880 block of East-West Highway (MD410) in Silver Spring, MD.		396449.5350	147558.1370	79.0410	259.3200	0.8500
NE1	A bronze plaque exists on the sidewalk in front of convenience store at 7847 Eastern Ave in Silver Spring, MD.	SURVEYED CENTER OF THE PLAQUE	397596.3220	146410.2870	108.3290	355.4100	0.0000
NE2	South corner of a front lawn at 6890 Maple Ave, NE		398735.3701	145270.0561	85.4080	280.2100	2.0500
NE3	About 140 feet northwest of intersection of Chillum Rd and Eastern Ave, NE		399853.4650	144151.1289	56.4000	185.0400	1.3200
NE4	About 75 feet northwest of the intersection of Eastern Ave and Sargent Rd, NE		401022.1615	142981.1776	36.9050	121.0800	1.9500
NE5	Center of a front lawn at 4609 Eastern Ave., NE.		402166.4792	141835.9109	18.5260	60.7800	1.9300
NE6	South corner of a front lawn at 3601 Eastern Ave., NE.		403352.8032	140648.6499	17.2060	56.4500	1.9500
NE7	About 100 ft. SE of the South corner of a series of raised monuments on the 18th block of Fort Lincoln Cemetery, Cottage City, MD. West of the Garden of the Crucifixion, along the boundary fence.		404452.8560	139547.2399	25.2620	82.8800	1.2000
NE8	About 500 ft. NE of intersection of Kenilworth and Eastern Ayes, behind a D.C. Public Housing Project, NE.		405595.3690	138403.9790	4.9380	16.2000	1.6000
NE9	West corner of the front lawn at 919 Eastern Ave., NE.		406738.0024	137259.9420	37.8620	124.2200	2.3000
EAST	About 100 ft. East of the intersection of Eastern and Southern Aves.		407880.1200	136116.6810	28.6240	93.9100	1.9000
SE1	Opposite the end of D St., along Southern Ave., SE.		406742.2050	134981.0800	61.9200	203.1500	2.4000
SE2	N corner of a front lawn at 4345 Southern Ave., SE.		405603.7090	133844.6301	88.2760	289.6200	2.1000
SE3	Opposite 3908 Southern Ave., surrounded by ivy.		404463.5306	132706.0963	74.2310	243.5400	2.7000
SE5	Opposite the NE end of Valley Terrace, along Southern Ave., Next to a parking lot for the Southern Ave. Metro stop, SE.		402184.3100	130431.9279	34.6590	113.7100	1.8000
SE6	About 20 ft. West of the entrance to the Tribles Co., 901 Southern Ave., SE.		401044.2453	129294.3916	58.5100	191.9600	2.2500
SE7	About 25 ft. East of the intersection of Indian Head Hwy. and Southern Ave., SE. Just SE of the bridge going over Oxon Run on Indian Head Hwy.		399904.7845	128157.5424	12.5270	41.1000	1.4000
SE8	SE corner of the D.C. Village Impound Lot, SW.	STONE UNDER 4' OF WATER, COORDINATES APPROX.	398762.3166	127016.8414	5.2900	17.3600	-6.0500
SE9	About 1000 ft. SW of the South end of Oxon Cove Bridge along Interstate 295, about 120 ft. East of the Potomac river bed.		397938.1580	126194.1220	2.0410	6.6960	1.7000
SW1	On the NW corner of a lot at 1220 Wilkes Street, Alex. VA.		395275.2067	125944.0426	8.9090	29.2300	1.7000
SW2	On the sidewalk just West of 7 Russell Rd., Alex. VA.		394559.5063	126649.2671	8.6620	28.4200	2.4400
SW3	North end of a parking lot of the First Baptist Church of Alexandria at 2932 King St., Alex., VA		393111.8066	128100.1608	52.9710	173.7900	1.4000
SW4	Just off the sidewalk on King St., about 150 ft. NW of Wakefield St., Alex., VA.		391908.8495	129310.1990	60.0120	196.8900	0.3000
SW5	About 100 ft. NE of the intersection of King St. and Walter Reed Dr., on The N side of Walter Reed Dr., An., VA.		390733.4370	130481.2980	37.4010	122.7070	0.5000
SW6	In the median strip of S. Jefferson Street between Columbia and Leesburg Pikes, Fairfax Co./Arlington, VA.		389647.6382	131568.7526	64.9740	213.1700	2.1000

SW7	Along the SW fence on the grounds of Carlin Springs Elementary School, Arl., VA.		388480.7701	132736.6848	81.7780	268.3000	1.7000
SW8	About 120 ft. SE of a water tower in an apartment complex parking lot on the SE corner of John Marshall Dr. and Wilson Blvd., Falls Church, VA.		387335.2983	133881.7158	124.4140	408.1800	1.7500
SW9	A park along Van Buren Street, N of Columbia St., F.C., VA.		386196.6208	135023.8586	85.0090	278.9000	0.9000
WEST	Andrew Ellicott Park, 2848 N. Arizona Street, Arl., VA		385052.5270	136169.5630	104.4810	342.7850	1.7000
NW1	N corner of a back yard at 3607 Powhatan St., Arl., VA.		386195.9000	137312.6930	130.5950	428.4600	2.7500
NW2	On the NE corner of 5298 Old Dominion Drive, Arl. VA.		387338.9600	138456.3440	93.1620	305.6500	2.2000
NW3	Center of a back yard at 4013 Tazwell St., Arl. VA.		388533.2670	139648.0958	69.5590	228.2100	2.3000
NW4	The back yard of 5609 Daleclaria Place, NW. About 900 ft. N of the SW corner fence of the Daleclaria Reservoir, about 100 East of the fence.		389971.4890	141086.2360	44.6500	146.4800	2.2000
NW5	About 300 ft. SE of a concrete culvert, 600 feet West of the Daleclaria Parkway, NW. It is atop small ridge about 100 ft. SE of a small gully.		390751.8240	141866.0210	62.0200	203.4800	2.1000
NW6	Just West of a bus stop opposite Fesseden St., in between Park Place and Western Avenue, NW.		391891.5661	143004.7817	84.9940	278.8500	1.8000
NW7	Under a tree on the South corner of the front lawn of 5600 Western Ave., NW.		393031.8656	144144.1793	104.2420	342.0000	1.9500
NW8	Center of a front lawn at 6422 Western Ave., NW.		394171.1779	145282.2134	100.0780	328.3400	1.4500
NW9	5 feet East of a driveway at 2701 Daniel Pl., 165 ft. NE from the midline of the intersection of Oregon Ave. and Daniel Pl., NW.		395310.2950	146419.9940	75.1730	246.6300	1.8000
SOUTH	Currently in seawall on the side of the Joint Point Lighthouse on Jones Point Park, Alexandria VA, Site currently under construction (May, 2011) and stone may be moved.	Could not survey due to site being under construction. Stone wrapped in burlap & packed in sand. Approximate coordinates (+/-0.4') obtained from AMT surveyor working for PCC at Woodrow Wilson Bridge	396473.9993	124732.9642	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000

* - The distance from the top of the stone to the grade next to it.

ATTACHMENT B – BACKGROUND ON MC MILLAN PLAN OF 1901-02

MC MILLAN PLAN OF 1901- 1902

The proposed boundaries for the federal precinct within the state of New Columbia are derived from the 1902 Report of the Senate Park Commission, also known as the McMillan Commission. That report led to the development of the McMillan Plan of 1901-1902, as well as the creation of the US Commission of Fine Arts to ensure it was faithfully carried out as Washington developed.

The McMillan Plan revived and expanded upon Pierre L'Enfant's 1791 Plan for the City of Washington, establishing the configuration and appearance of Monumental Washington, the seat of the federal government surrounding the National Mall, as we know it today (see Figure 1).



Figure 1: McMillan Commission rendering of its recommendations for central Washington. Although the execution of the plan over the ensuing century led to some variations, it has remained remarkably faithful to the configuration and design conception for the federal government's civic presence in Washington.

The McMillan Commission report describes its clear intention to reinforce L'Enfant's composition of the Capitol, White House, and Mall cross-axis in a way that simultaneously addressed the dignity of the federal government while also addressing the pressing need for new facilities to house greatly expanded public functions (see Figure 2).

These new public buildings were to surround the green space of the National Mall, creating a kite-shaped area dominated by the national civic presence (see Figure 3).

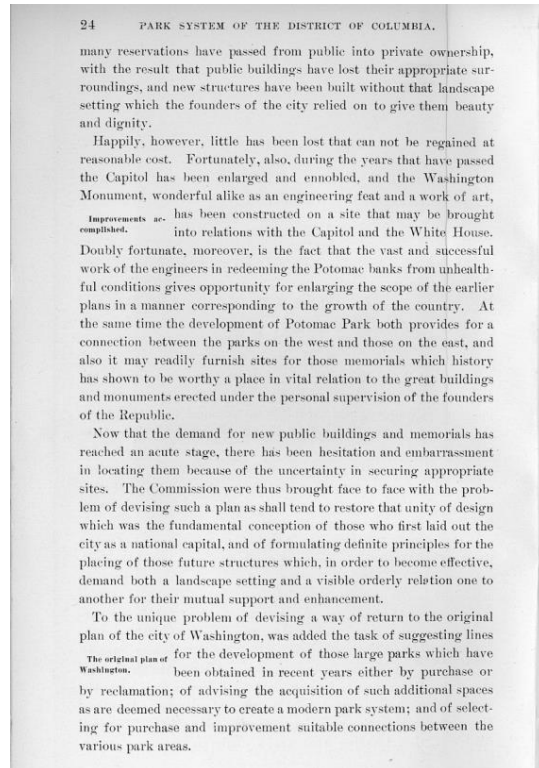
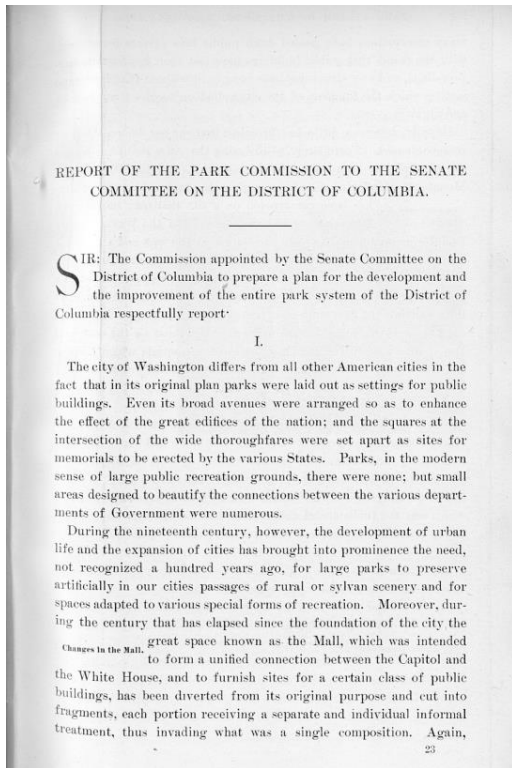


Figure 2: McMillan Commission description of its design concept for central Washington. The design focused on re-establishing the dignity of a unified monumental landscape setting for the seat of government, using the cross-axial framework established by L'Enfant, while also accommodating a greatly expanded government by adding a frame of public building sites.

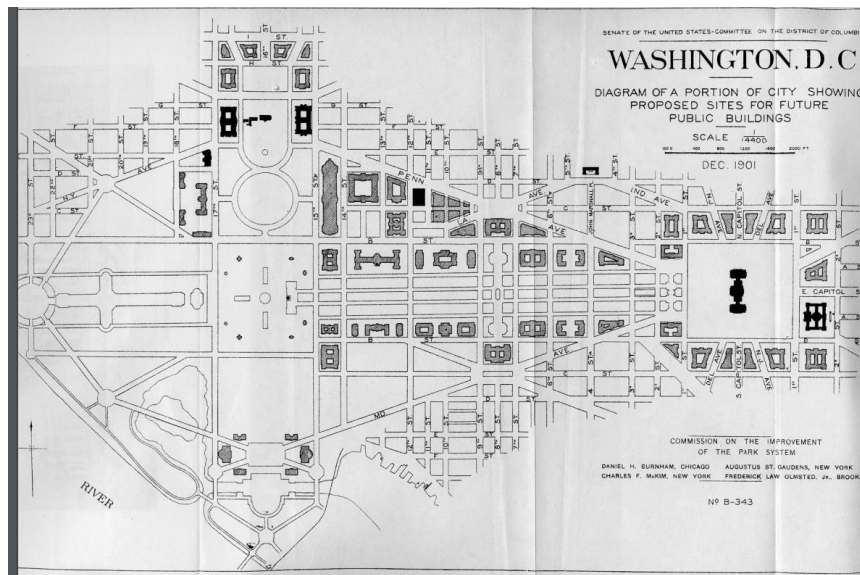


Figure 3: McMillan Commission site plan for public buildings in central Washington. The plan shows the kite-shaped area surrounding the National Mall as a government-dominated precinct of monumental structures. The current Federal Triangle, Mall museums, and frame of federal offices around the Capitol and White House grounds follow this plan closely. Further government expansion in the second half of the 20th century has occupied the Northwest Rectangle area west of the White House and the Southwest Federal Center area south of the Mall, although with some modification to the "kite" configuration.

In its report to Congress, the Commission devoted a detailed chapter to this monumental federal precinct in central Washington. The report terms the geometric composition of formal monumental landscape and public buildings “The Mall System” (see Figure 4). The area of the Mall System was further subdivided into distinct functional areas (see Figure 5).

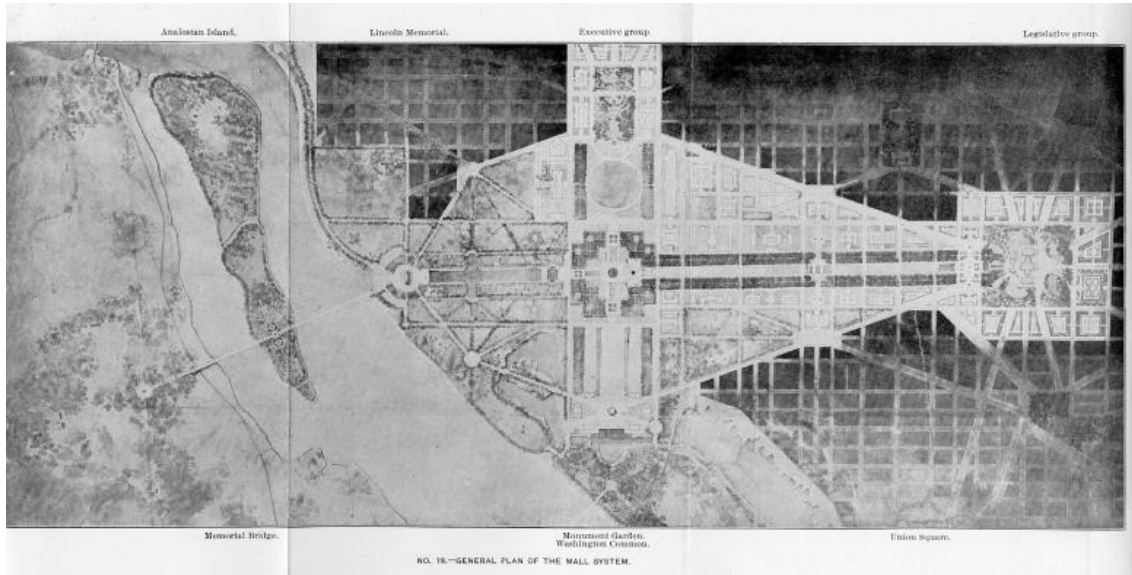


Figure 4: General Plan of The Mall System. The plan denotes specific areas for executive and legislative buildings, while also contemplating a symbolic extension of the monumental national precinct by way a memorial bridge to Arlington Cemetery in Virginia.

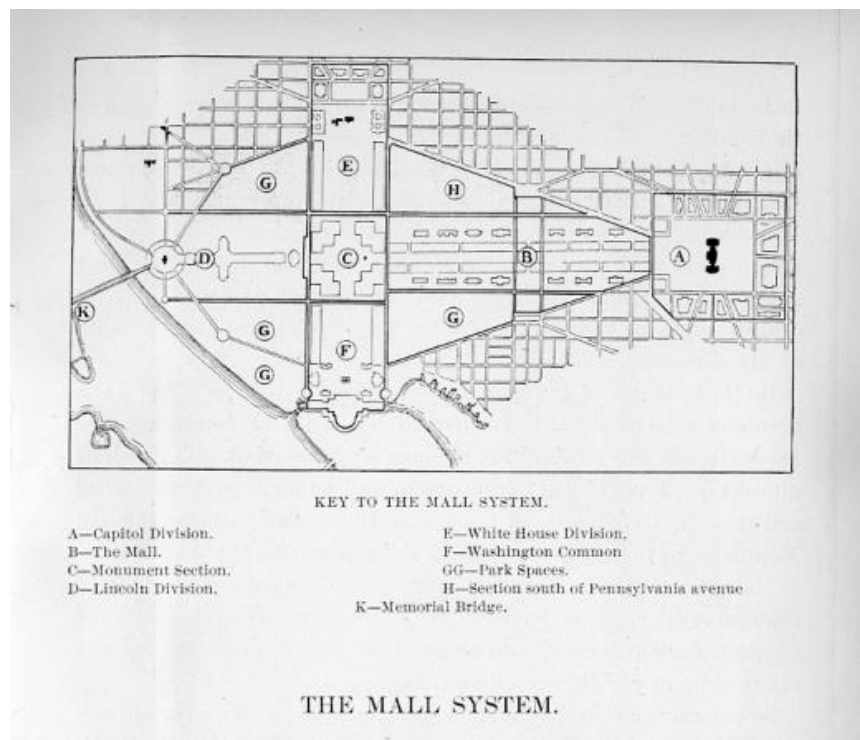


Figure 5: Subdivision of the Mall System. The Commission's plan divided the Mall system into separate areas, allowing for a variety of monumental, functional, and park uses. Two major areas originally identified as park areas were ultimately developed into the Northwest Rectangle and Southwest federal office precincts.

The Commission report to Congress summarizes the conclusions of its "very careful consideration" of the location of public buildings in the various areas around the Mall. In addition to areas for legislative and executive departments, the report envisioned sites for District government buildings as well as public museums and other buildings of a semi-public character (see Figure 6).

The report also explains why East Potomac Park was not included as part of the central Mall system, noting that was a different type of parkland similar to Rock Creek Park, the National Zoo, and other parklands scattered throughout the city (see Figure 7).

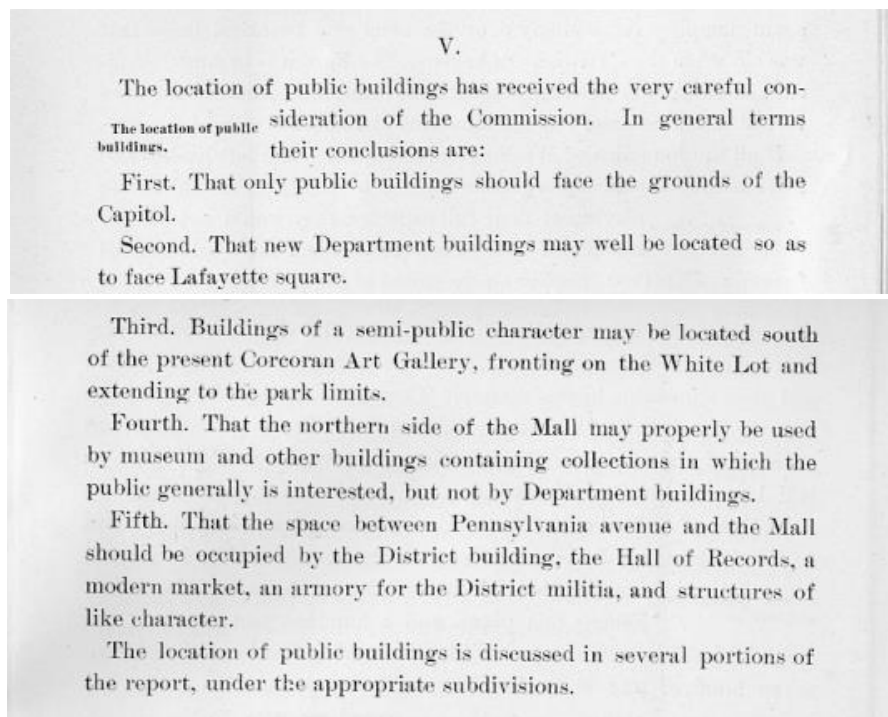


Figure 6: Conclusions on the location of public buildings. The "kite" area of the Mall system was intended to create a monumental setting for public buildings of both the federal and District governments, as well as public museums and semi-public institutions.

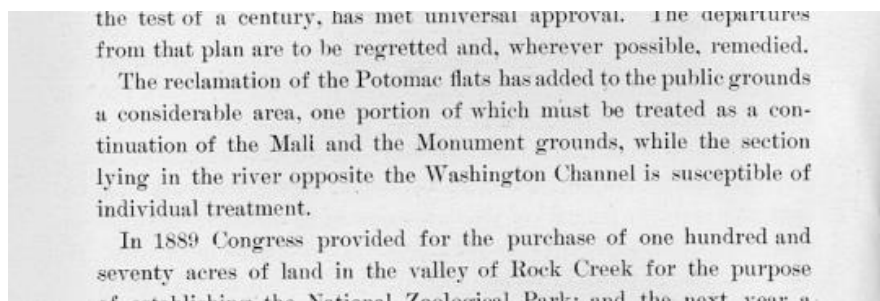


Figure 7: Different treatment of East and West Potomac Parks. While the McMillan plan treated West Potomac Park as part of the natural continuation of the Mall and Monument grounds, it considered East Potomac Park a different type of area whose expected treatment would be more similar to that of Rock Creek Park, the National Zoo, Anacostia Park, and other green areas scattered throughout the city.

ATTACHMENT C – WRITTEN DESCRIPTION OF BOUNDARIES OF THE SEAT OF FEDERAL GOVERNEMENT

DESCRIPTION OF BOUNDARIES OF THE SEAT OF FEDERAL GOVERNEMENT

Starting at the intersection of the centerline of Massachusetts Ave NE and the centerline of Second Street NE;

thence south along said Second Street NE to Second Street SE; thence continuing south on Second Street SE to its intersection with the northern property boundary of the John Adams Building of the Library of Congress;

thence east along said northern property boundary of the John Adams Buildings to its intersection with Third Street SE;

thence south along said Third Street SE to Independence Ave SE; thence west along said Independence Ave SE to Second Street SE;

thence south along said Second Street SE to C Street SE; thence west along said C Street SE to C Street SW;

thence continuing west along said C Street SW to Washington Ave SW; thence northwest along said Washington Ave NW to Second Street SW; thence south along said Second Street SW to Virginia Ave SW;

thence northwest along said Virginia Ave SW to Third Street SW; thence north along said Third Street SW to D Street SW;

thence west along said D Street SW to Fourth Street SW; thence north along said Fourth Street SW to C Street SW;

thence west along said C Street SW to Sixth Street SW; thence north along said Sixth Street SW to Independence Ave SW;

thence west along said Independence Ave SW to Twelfth Street SW; thence south along said Twelfth Street SW to D Street SW;

thence west along said D Street SW to Fourteenth Street SW;

thence in a southwesterly direction along said Fourteenth Street SW to its intersection with the eastern shore of the Potomac River;

thence in a northwesterly direction along said eastern shore of the Potomac River to its intersection with the northern property boundary of the Kennedy Center;

thence east along said northern property boundary of the Kennedy Center to its intersection with the centerline of Interstate 66;

thence south along said Interstate 66 to the E Street Expressway; thence east on said E Street Expressway to Twenty Third Street NW;

thence north along said Twenty Third Street NW to E Street NW;

thence east along said E Street NW to Eighteenth Street NW; thence south along said Eighteenth Street NW to Virginia Ave NW;

thence southeast along said Virginia Ave NW to Constitution Ave NW;

thence east along said Constitution Ave NW to Seventeenth Street NW; thence north along said Seventeenth Street NW to H Street NW;

thence east along said H Street NW to Fifteenth Street NW;

thence south along said Fifteenth Street NW to its northernmost intersection with Pennsylvania Ave NW;

thence southeast along said Pennsylvania Ave NW to Fourteenth Street NW; thence south along said Fourteenth Street NW to D Street NW;

thence east along said D Street NW to Thirteen and a Half Street NW;

thence north along said Thirteen and a Half Street NW to Pennsylvania Ave NW;

east and southeast along said Pennsylvania Ave NW to Fourth Street NW; thence north along a line extending Fourth Street NW to C Street NW;

thence east along said C Street NW to Third Street NW; thence north along said Third Street NW to D Street NW;

thence east along said D Street NW to Second Street NW;

thence south along said Second Street NW to its intersection with a line extending C Street NW;

thence east along said line extending C Street NW to C Street NW; thence continuing east along C Street NW to Louisiana Ave NW;

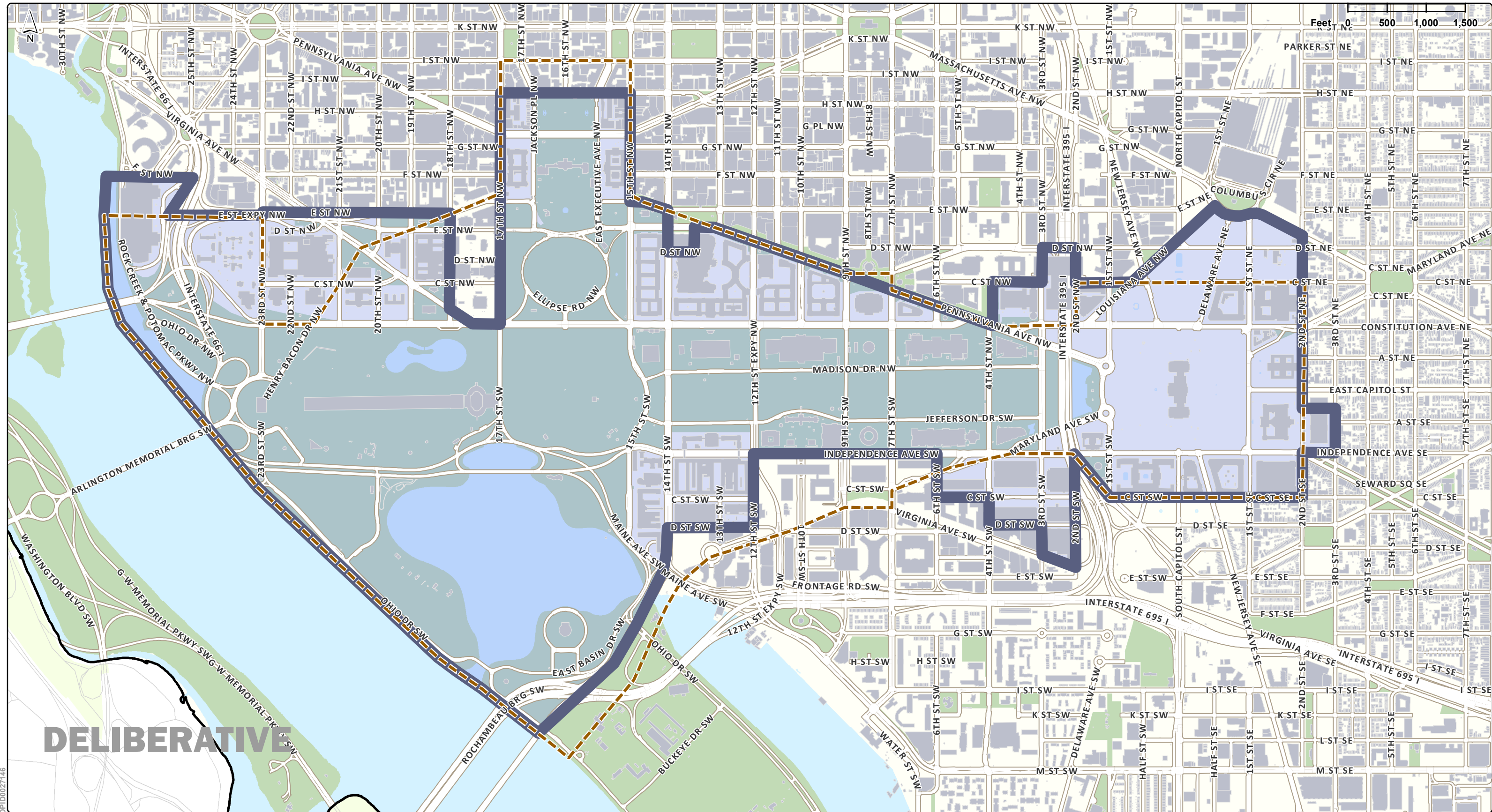
thence northeast along Louisiana Ave NW to Louisiana Ave NE;

thence continuing northeast along Louisiana Ave NE to Columbus Circle NE;


thence counter-clockwise along Columbus Circle to Massachusetts Ave NE;

thence southeast along Massachusetts Ave NE to the point of beginning.



**ATTACHMENT D – MAPS OF PROPOSED BOUNDARIES FOR NEW
COLUMBIA AND SEAT OF FEDERAL GOVERNMENT**



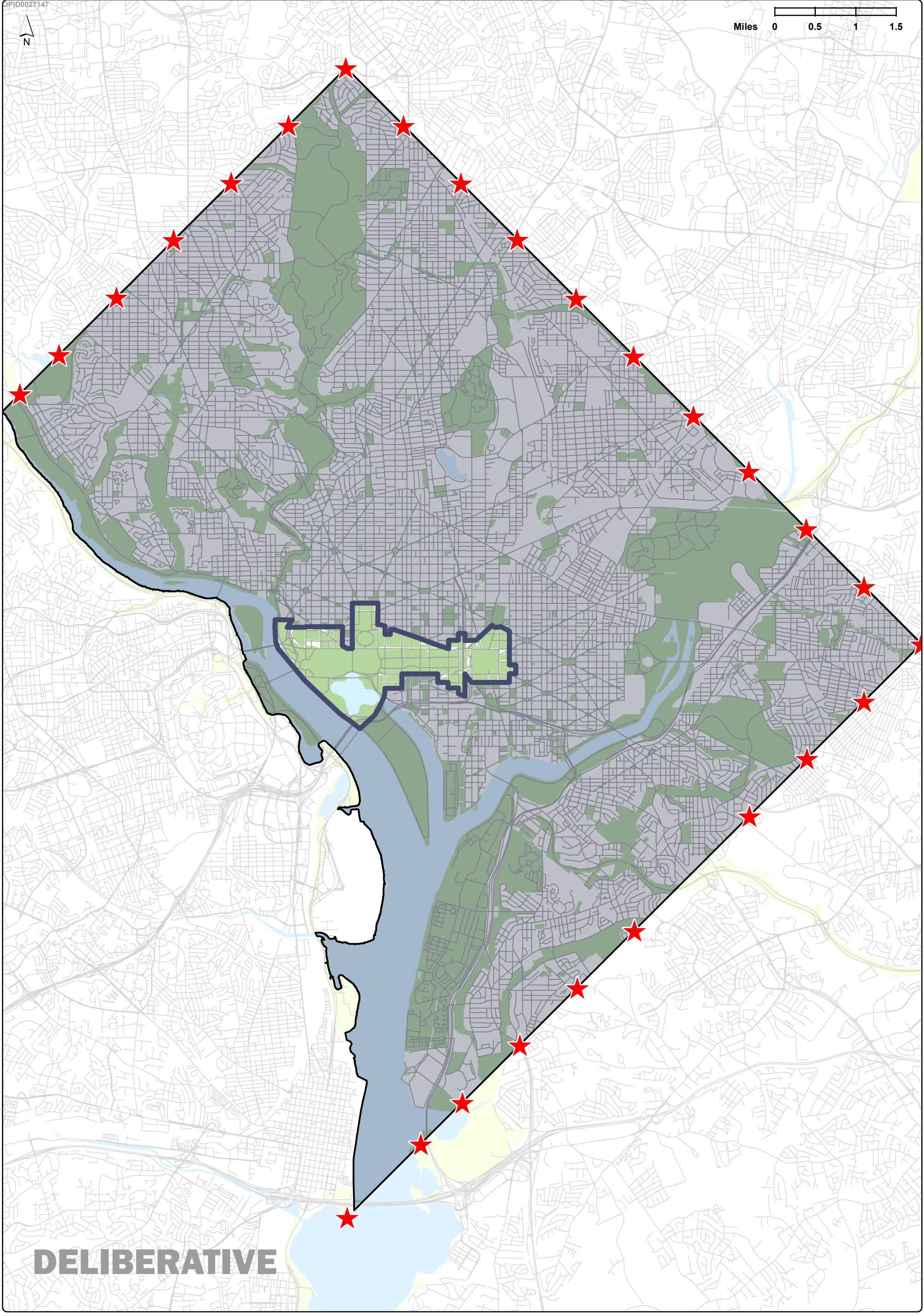
Proposed New Columbia

 **Office of Planning ~ June 9, 2016**
Government of the District of Columbia

This map was created for planning purposes from a variety of sources. It is neither a survey nor a legal document. Information provided by other agencies should be verified with them where appropriate.

-  *Proposed Seat of the Federal Government*
-  *McMillan Plan Boundary*

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Proposed New Columbia



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-  *Boundary Stones*
-  *Proposed New Columbia*
-  *Proposed Seat of the Federal Government*