



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
Office of Construction & Facilities Management
Washington DC 20420

January 31, 2023

Sent via email

SUBJECT: Scoping Notice for the Draft Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Sylvan Springs Expansion and Columbaria Construction at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery located at 2900 Sheridan Road in St. Louis County, Missouri

Dear Valued Stakeholder:

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is preparing a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) to analyze the potential environmental impacts associated with the Proposed Action to expand north onto VA owned land currently leased by St Louis County and utilized for Sylvan Springs Park and construct a columbarium at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery (JBNC) in St. Louis, St. Louis County, Missouri (see attached **Project Location Map**). VA National Cemetery Administration (NCA) operates the cemetery. The proposed expansion would occur on a site that consists of one 37.6-acre parcel acquired by VA in 2018 consisting of restroom/concession building and picnic shelter, paved and gravel parking lots outlined in yellow in the **Project Area Map**. Additionally, a new columbarium and associated parking would be added within the existing Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery.

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to provide additional burial sites at JBNC for eligible individuals by expanding north onto the VA owned 37.6-acre parcel and constructing a columbarium within the current JBNC in order to meet the needs of Veterans and family members. The Proposed Action is needed to provide accessible interment services to Veterans and their families.

Concurrent with this mailing, this scoping notice will also be published in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch to inform and solicit input from the public. The notice is also available on the VA website at <https://www.cfm.va.gov/environmental>.

VA will prepare the Draft EA according to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 (42 U.S. Code 4321-4370h), the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] 1500-1508), and VA Implementing Regulations (38 CFR Part 26).

VA recognizes that you as an identified Stakeholder and/or your organization may have comments on the scope of issues for analysis or information relevant to the Proposed Action for consideration in the Draft EA. Please submit your comments/information via email within 30-days following receipt of this notice to vacoenvironment@va.gov with the subject line "Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery EA Scoping".

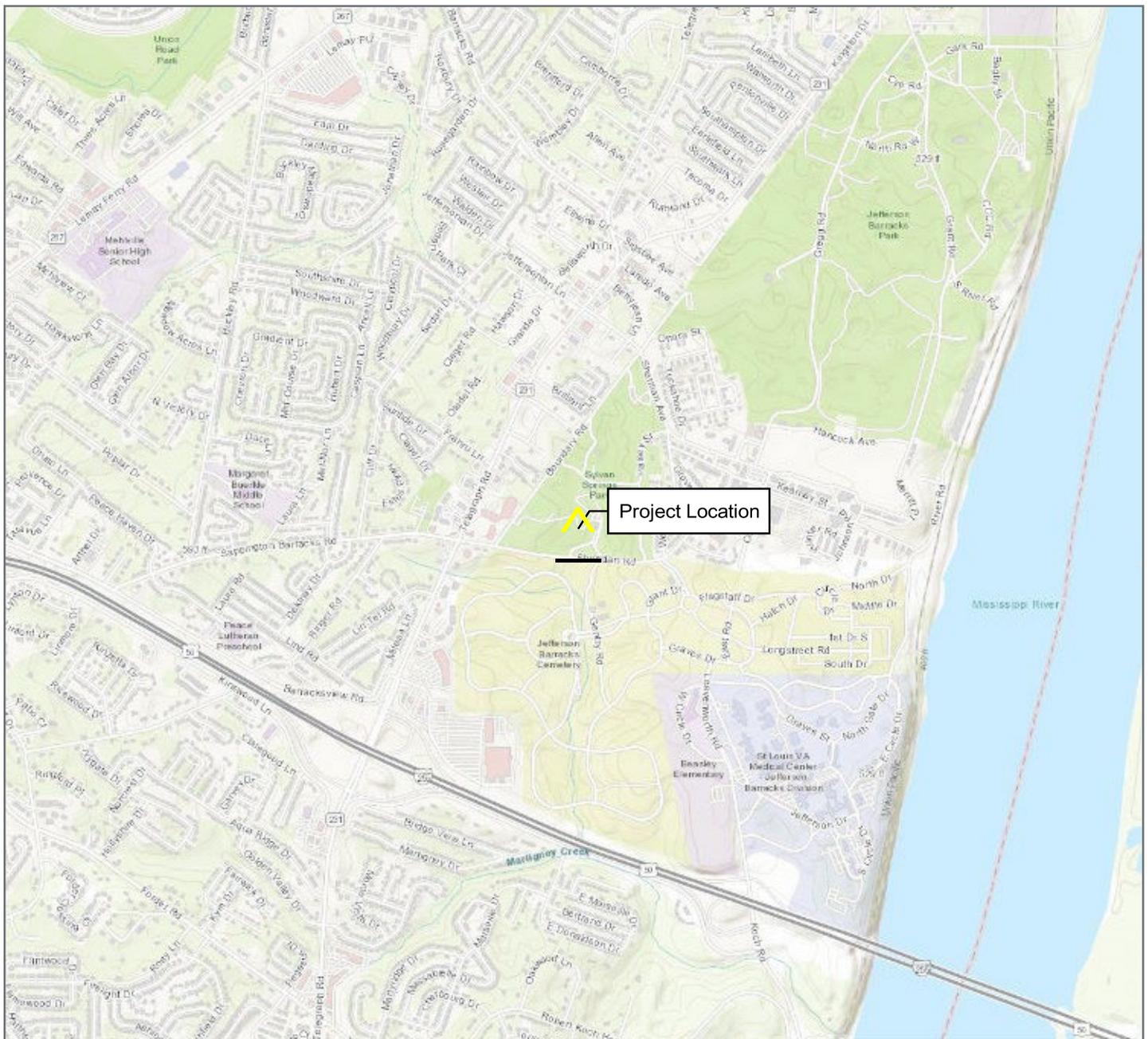
Through this notice, VA is also providing the public with information about the undertaking and seeking public comment and input about the undertaking's effects on historic properties pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended (54 USC § 306108), and its implementing regulations (36 CFR Part 800 – Protection of Historic Properties). VA is using its procedures for public involvement under NEPA in lieu of public involvement requirements in subpart B of the Section 106 regulations per 36 CFR 800.2(d)(3). This notice does not serve as an invitation to consult under Section 106, it is solely to seek and consider the views of the public. VA will initiate its Section 106 review and send invitations to consulting parties separately.

VA will address and incorporate relevant comments in the Draft EA. Once VA completes the Draft EA, it will be published and made available for a 30-day public review and comment period. VA will announce the start of this review period by publishing a Notice of Availability (NOA) of the Draft EA in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch. VA will concurrently notify stakeholders with instructions on how to submit comments.

For additional information or questions, please contact Fernando Fernandez at fernando.fernandez@va.gov with the subject line “Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery EA Scoping”.

Respectfully,

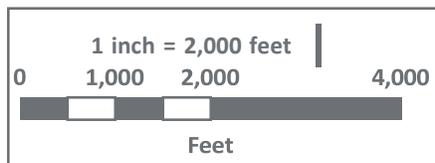
Patrick Read
Acting Director, Environmental Program Office
Office of Construction and Facilities Management



Legend

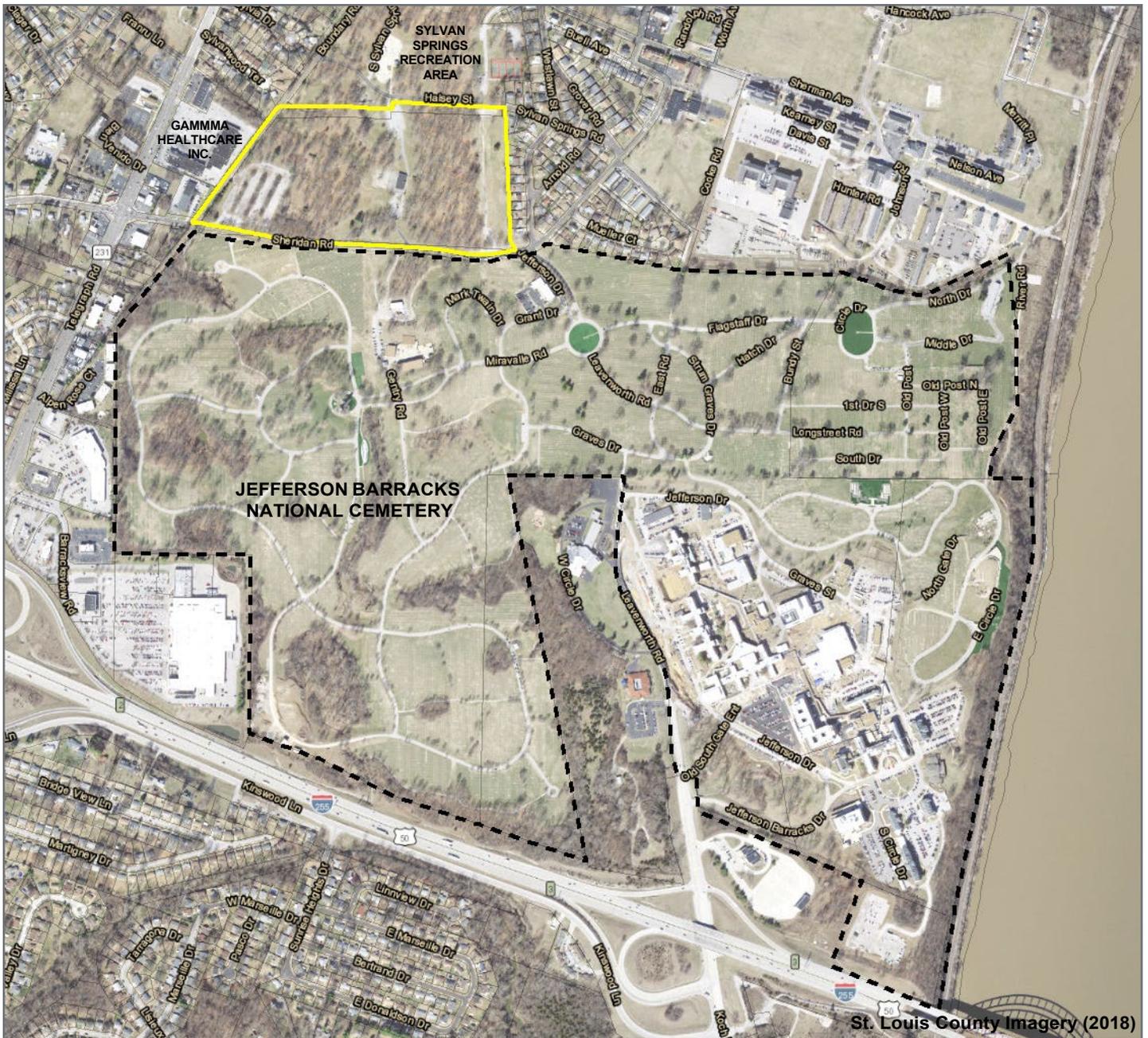
- Existing JBNC Property
- Expansion Property (37.6 Ac.)
- St. Louis Co. Parcels

PID: 29H240021
Project No: 16449
Date: 12.21.2022



Project Location

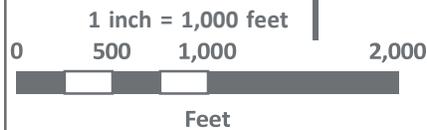
2900 Sheridan Road,
St. Louis, MO 63125



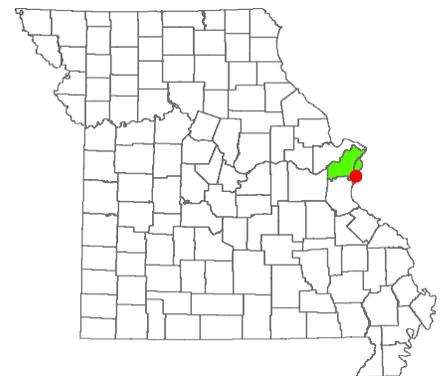
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- Existing JBNC Property
- Expansion Property (37.6 Ac.)
- St. Louis Co. Parcels

PID: Multiple
Project No: 16449
Date: 12.21.2022



Project Location



2900 Sheridan Road,
St. Louis, MO 63125