



**National Park Service**  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Jefferson National  
Expansion Memorial

11 North Fourth Street  
St. Louis, Missouri 63102

314-655-1600 phone  
314-655-1639 fax

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## **Jefferson National Expansion Memorial News Release**

For Release: January 16, 2009  
Contact: Tom Bradley  
Phone: (314) 655-1611

### **Draft General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement Available for Public Review**

#### **Public Meetings Planned**

ST. LOUIS, Mo. – The National Park Service (NPS) today announced the availability of the Draft General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (GMP/EIS) for Jefferson National Expansion Memorial (commonly referred to as the Gateway Arch). The Draft GMP/EIS will remain available for public review and comment for 60 days, from today through March 16, 2009.

Two public meetings will be held in conjunction with the release of this document, where the NPS will present alternative proposals for the future management of the Memorial, including the identified preferred alternative. Public meetings will begin and conclude with an informal open house format where staff will be available to answer questions and visit about the alternative proposals. The public meetings also will include a formal presentation, followed by a formal comment period. Meetings will be held on February 23 and 24 at the following locations:

February 23—5 p.m. to 7 p.m. in Tucker Theater, Gateway Arch. Parking is available at the Arch Parking Garage and a limited amount of free parking is available at the Old Cathedral.

February 24—6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in Steinberg Auditorium, Sam Fox School of Design and Visual Arts at Washington University. Visitors using Metrolink can access the meeting by way of the Skinker Station located one block from Steinberg Hall. Limited parking will be available in the lot adjacent to Steinberg Hall and Givens Hall on a first come basis. Parking is also available on adjacent city streets and in Forest Park. For further parking information, please contact Washington University at (314) 935-9393.

In addition to formal public meetings, informal “brown bag” sessions where Memorial staff will be available to answer questions, will be held on January 29 at noon in the Old Courthouse and January 31 at 1 p.m. at Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site. Additional brown bag sessions may be scheduled at a later date. If individuals or organizations are interested in hosting a public brown bag luncheon, groups are encouraged to contact the Superintendent’s office.

Four alternative proposals for reinvigorating the Memorial are considered in the GMP. Alternatives are the same as those described in the December 2008 Fact Sheets. The NPS has identified Alternative 3 as the preferred alternative. The primary component of this alternative is a formal design competition akin to the original 1947 competition. Other changes considered in the GMP include accessible walkways to the underground visitor center and museum, and to the grounds from the riverfront. The plan examines a pedestrian walkway over Memorial Drive and the Interstate Highway that would connect the Arch grounds to the grounds near the Old Courthouse. Such a walkway would allow visitors to move from downtown to the Arch more safely. Streetscape changes (plantings, pedestrian access changes) would be made to make the environment surrounding the Memorial more inviting and visitor friendly. Expansion to the East St. Louis riverfront is also considered. Minor modifications are proposed for the interior of the Old Courthouse, and wayside exhibits added to the grounds to enhance the visitor experience and learning at the Memorial. Expansion of the existing museum space or modifications to other existing facilities has also been considered to provide greater learning and interpretive services. Consideration has been given to the addition of food service (temporary/ seasonal/portable, self-contained refreshment vendors), restrooms, modified security checkpoints, and other changes suggested in the past by the public.

The Draft GMP/EIS is available on the National Park Service Planning, Environment and Public Comment (PEPC) internet website at < <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/ieff> >. Copies are available by request (please specify print or electronic version) by contacting the Superintendent at Jefferson National Expansion Memorial, 11 North 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Saint Louis, Missouri 63102; by telephone to 314-655-1611; or by e-mail to [JEFF\\_Superintendent@nps.gov](mailto:JEFF_Superintendent@nps.gov).

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