



February 24, 2026

Tammy Stidham  
Associate Regional Director – Lands and Planning  
National Park Service  
1100 Ohio Drive SW  
Washington, DC 20242

ATTN: Tidal Basin Development Concept Plan – Public Review

Dear Ms. Stidham,

On behalf of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, thank you for the opportunity to comment on the *Tidal Basin Development Concept Plan / Environmental Assessment (EA)*, dated January 2026.

We remain strongly supportive of the National Park Service's commitment to restoring the Tidal Basin's cultural landscape and advancing long-term strategies for resilience, visitor experience, and historic preservation. The Preferred Alternative reflects many of the principles we have advocated for throughout this multi-year planning process.

We are pleased to see that the Preferred Alternative advances key priorities shared in our March, July, and October 2025 letters, including:

- Expanded pedestrian pathways and new bridge crossings that improve circulation while protecting the landscape.
- Reduction in surface parking and expanded multi-modal access.
- Enhanced interpretation of cultural resources, including the Jefferson, FDR, and MLK Jr. Memorials.
- Introduction of tidal wetlands and nature-based strategies to mitigate flooding and strengthen ecological resilience.
- Permanent security improvements at the Jefferson Memorial that are thoughtfully integrated into the landscape.

We also encourage the continued incorporation of insights from the 2019 [Tidal Basin Ideas Lab](#) as implementation advances. Those early-phase design explorations remain valuable in shaping future public engagement and project phasing.

The National Trust applauds the progress made through this planning and environmental review process. The Preferred Alternative provides a thoughtful and balanced framework to address long-standing infrastructure challenges, accommodate increased visitation, and preserve one of the nation's most iconic commemorative landscapes.

We appreciate the Park Service's leadership in advancing this important work and look forward to continued collaboration as the plan moves into implementation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Seri Worden". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Seri Worden  
Senior Director of Preservation Programs  
National Trust for Historic Preservation

cc: Lee Webb, Federal Preservation Officer, National Capitol Planning Comm'n  
Tom Luebke, Federal Preservation Officer, Commission of Fine Arts  
Kirsten Kulis, Advisory Council on Historic Preservation  
David Maloney, DC State Historic Preservation Officer