



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

December 21, 2022

*Sent via email*

**SUBJECT: Scoping Notice for the Draft Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Expansion of Fort Snelling National Cemetery in Minneapolis, Hennepin County, Minnesota**

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 construct and operate additional burial sites and support facilities and infrastructure at Fort Snelling National Cemetery (FSNC) in Minneapolis, Hennepin County, Minnesota (see attached **Project Location Map**). VA National Cemetery Administration (NCA) operates the cemetery. The proposed expansion is entirely within the existing grounds of the cemetery and would occur within the 60-acre area outlined in yellow in the **Project Area Map**, which is currently undeveloped land at the site. The Proposed Action would develop approximately 10 acres of this undeveloped land to provide approximately 20,525 gravesites, including both casket and cremation sites in new burial sections, which constitutes sufficient burial capacity for approximately 15 years.

Expansion of the cemetery would require the construction of circulation roadways, drainage/stormwater conveyance, irrigation systems and landscaping, and a new Administration Building. The Proposed Action also includes the renovation and rehabilitation of the interiors of the existing Public Information Center, Administration Building, and Maintenance Building (Building 3002), which are labeled in the Project Area Map, as well as exterior repair work at the same three buildings and Flagpole Circle. Finally, the section of the cemetery's perimeter fence that is marked by the dashed yellow line in the map would be repaired, as well as the posts and three gates within that section. The Main Gate area at 34th Avenue South and LaBelle Drive would also be redeveloped to include new entrance signage, the VA seal, and additional landscaping.

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to provide additional burial sites at FSNC for eligible individuals and the essential support facilities and infrastructure throughout FSNC that are required to meet the needs of Veterans, family members, and staff at FSNC. The Proposed Action is needed to provide accessible interment services to Veterans and their families. The existing cemetery cannot support burial requests for eligible individuals and requires expansion to continue supporting the needs of Veterans, family members, and staff.

This scoping notice will also be published in the Star Tribune 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 [yacoenvironment@va.gov](mailto:yacoenvironment@va.gov) with the subject line “Fort Snelling 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.

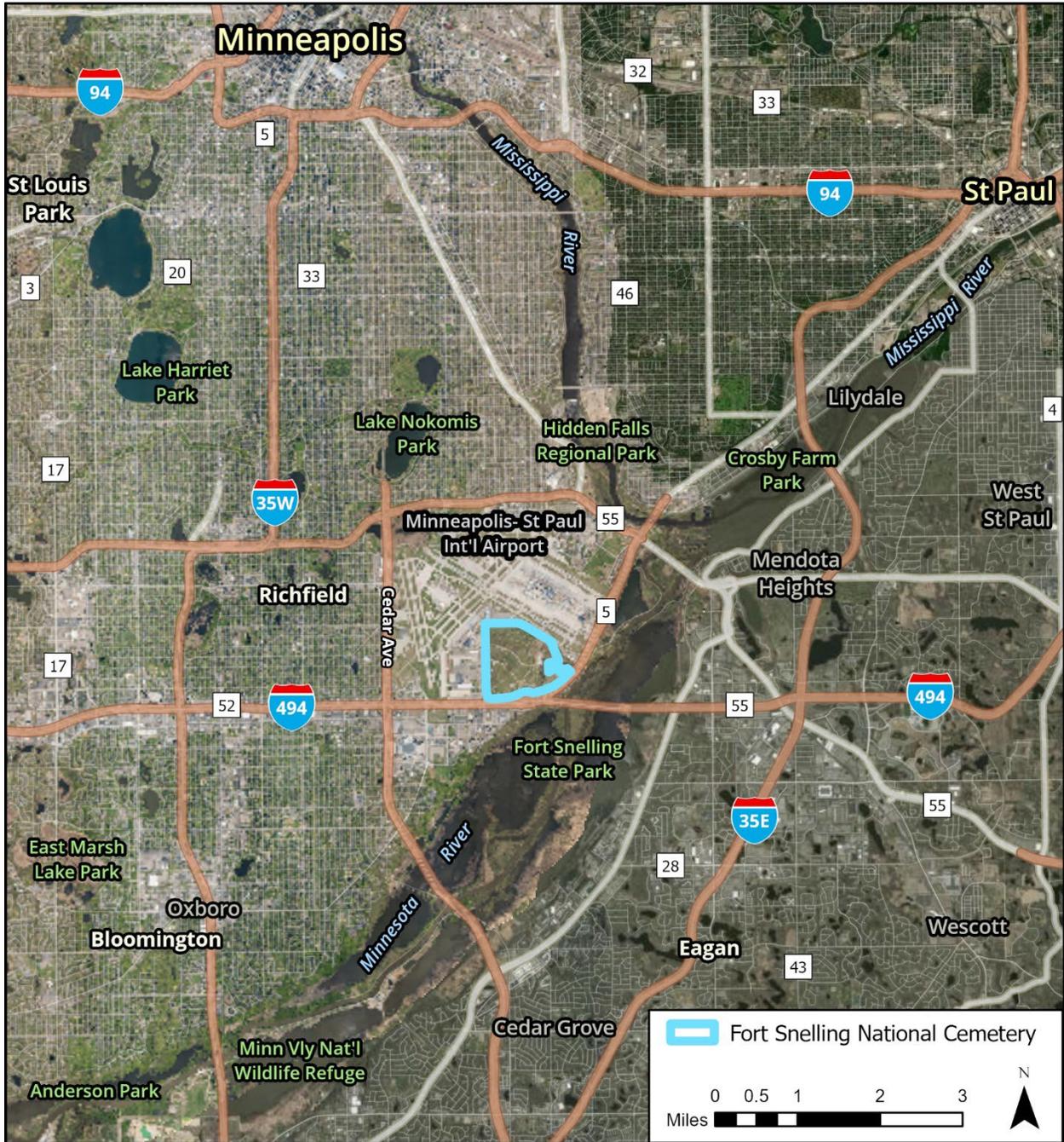
VA will address and incorporate relevant comments in the Draft EA. Once VA completes the Draft EA, it will be published and made available for a 30-day public review and comment period. VA will announce the start of this review period by publishing a Notice of Availability (NOA) of the Draft EA in the Star Tribune. 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](mailto:fernando.fernandez@va.gov) with the subject line “Fort Snelling National Cemetery EA Scoping”.

Respectfully, “Per Procuracionem”

Glenn Elliott  
Director, Environmental Program Office  
Office of Construction and Facilities Management

# PROJECT LOCATION MAP



# PROJECT AREA MAP

