

**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY  
FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT  
FORT LAWTON VETERANS CEMETERY  
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON  
CEMETERY TRANSFER FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
TO THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**

**Background**

The Department of the Army operates the Fort Lawton Military Cemetery. It is adjacent to Discovery Park, 5 miles Northwest of downtown Seattle, Washington, in King County. The Department of the Army is transferring the cemetery to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). The VA's National Cemetery Administration would be responsible for continued maintenance and operation of the cemetery. The 4.4-acre cemetery contains 940 occupied gravesites.

**Proposed Action**

The proposed action is to transfer ownership and responsibilities for operations and maintenance of the Ft. Lawton Military Cemetery, Seattle, Washington, from the Department of the Army to the Department of Veterans Affairs. The initial action would include evaluation of the cemetery to meet National Environmental Policy Act requirements and to determine what activities will be necessary to have the cemetery meet the VA's National Cemetery Standards. Detailed requirements would then be written to address any cemetery needs.

**Actions Completed**

A Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) was completed in October 2018, in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Both an Environmental Site Assessment and a Cultural Resource Survey was completed with a finding that no adverse effects would occur as a result of the transfer.

A Notice of Availability of the Draft Environmental Assessment was published in the Seattle Daily Journal of Commerce on October 26, 2018. No comments were received regarding the transfer. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) gives notice that a Final Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared.

**Conclusions**

The proposed transfer of ownership and responsibilities for operations and maintenance of the Ft. Lawton Military Cemetery, Seattle, Washington, from the Department of the Army to the Department of Veterans Affairs would have no significant effect on human health or the environment. The Final EA identifies, analyzes and documents the potential physical, environmental, cultural, and economic impacts associated with the VA's Proposed Action. The Final EA also evaluates the potential direct, indirect and cumulative impacts resulting from the Proposed Action. The proposed action and the no action alternative are considered.

**Final Environmental Assessment Location**

Copies of the Final EA and NOA are available for public review at Tahoma National Cemetery, and Magnolia Branch, Seattle Public Library, 2801 34<sup>th</sup> Avenue West Seattle Washington and the VA website: [www.cem.va.gov/ea.asp](http://www.cem.va.gov/ea.asp) for further information please contact ATTN: Ms. Jill Schattel, NCA Environmental Engineer, 425 I Street NW, Washington DC 20001. Phone (202) 815-9682. Email: [Jill.Schattel@va.gov](mailto:Jill.Schattel@va.gov)