

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

Draft Site-Specific Environmental Assessment for the
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Construction and Operation of the Phase 2 Expansion at the
Great Lakes National Cemetery
Holly Township, Oakland County, Michigan

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) National Cemetery Administration (NCA) hereby gives Notice of Availability (NOA) for the Draft Site-Specific Environmental Assessment (SEA) for VA's Proposed Action to construct and operate the proposed Phase 2 expansion at the Great Lakes National Cemetery (GLNC) located at 4200 Belford Road, Holly Township, Oakland County, Michigan, 48442. The Phase 2 expansion new burial areas would be constructed in an approximately 30-acre area within the existing GLNC property. The Proposed Action also includes improvements to existing infrastructure within an approximately 20-acre area of the existing Phase 1 cemetery. The Proposed Action is consistent with the GLNC Master Plan and addresses the depletion of existing burial capacity at GLNC. The Proposed Action would provide approximately 9,600 pre-placed double-depth crypts, 6,600 in-ground cremation sites, 12,070 columbarium niches, and 300 oversized pre-placed double-depth crypts. Additionally, the Phase 2 expansion would provide new roadways; two additional cortege lanes; additional parking at the assembly area and committal shelters; a new committal service shelter; additions to the public restrooms; maintenance complex improvements; a new materials storage shelter; grading for stormwater management; and associated landscaping, site furnishings, irrigation, and infrastructure improvements. The Phase 2 expansion would extend the longevity of GLNC for approximately 10 years. VA will evaluate the need for potential future expansions every 8-10 years, and separate environmental assessments would be completed prior to implementing a future expansion.

The Draft SEA was prepared according to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 ([NEPA]); 42 United States Code [USC] 4321 et seq.), the President's Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Parts 1500-1508), and VA's NEPA implementing regulations (38 CFR Part 26).

Publication of this NOA starts the 30-day review period for the Draft SEA. The Draft SEA is available for review in print at the GLNC public information center/administration building and the Holly Township Library at 1116 North Saginaw Street, Holly, MI, 48442, and may be electronically downloaded at <http://www.cem.va.gov/cem/EA.asp>. All comments received during the 30-day review period will be documented and addressed in the Final SEA.

All comments on the Draft SEA are requested within 30 days of the publication of this NOA. Please address all comments to Mr. Fernando L. Fernández, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Office of Construction & Facilities Management, 425 I (eye) Street, NW, Room 6W417a, Washington, DC, 20001; (202) 632-5529; or fernando.fernandez@va.gov. Please reference "Great Lakes National Cemetery" in all correspondence.