

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

National China Garden at the United States National Arboretum

The United States National Arboretum and the Agricultural Research Service of the United States Department of Agriculture (ARS), in partnership with the National China Garden Foundation, are proposing the construction of the National China Garden, a classical Chinese garden on the grounds of the United States National Arboretum. ARS will serve as the lead federal agency for the proposed action, working in cooperation with the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC). The proposed project is subject to the review of NCPC under the National Capital Planning Act.

The purpose of the proposed project is to create the finest example of a classical Chinese garden in the United States, featuring a harmonious balance of man-made structures, plants, water and rock formations. A collaborative effort and expression of friendship between China and the United States, the project is envisioned to serve as an important cultural center, living classroom and center for the study, appreciation and practice of traditional Chinese culture.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), ARS will be preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) to analyze the environmental impacts of the proposed project. Concurrently, ARS and NCPC will also conduct consultation under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). The public is invited to assist ARS and NCPC in identifying potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed project, for consideration in the EA and as part of the Section 106 process. **ARS will host a joint NEPA/Section 106 public scoping meeting on Wednesday, May 27 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. to share information about the National China Garden and provide an opportunity for the public to submit comments regarding the proposed project. The meeting will be held at the National Capital Planning Commission (Commission Chambers), 401 9th Street NW, Suite 500 (North Lobby), Washington, DC 20004.**

In addition, the public may submit written comments on the proposed project through June 10, 2015. Comments should be directed to: Eric Feldman, Rhodeside & Harwell, 510 King Street, Suite 300, Alexandria, VA 22314 or via email to ericf@rhodeside-harwell.com. For more information on the proposed project, please visit www.nationalchinagarden.org.

If you require special accommodations or assistance to attend and/or participate in the public scoping meeting, please contact Mr. Feldman at ericf@rhodeside-harwell.com or 703-683-7447.