

IN: 3/6/09



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
National Capital Region
Rock Creek Park
3545 Williamsburg Lane, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20008-1207

IN REPLY REFER TO:

L7619 (NCA-ROCR)

FEB 25 2009

David Salwen, President
Friends of Rose Park
1443 T Street, NW, #1
Washington, D.C. 20009

Re: Proposed Improvements to the Rock Creek Trail between Broad Branch Road and M Street

Dear Mr. Salwen:

The National Park Service, in collaboration with the District of Columbia Department of Transportation (DDOT) and the Federal Highway Administration, is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for proposed improvements to the portion of the Rock Creek Trail between Broad Branch Road and M Street, as well as new connections to this trail. This EA evaluates the potential effects of the proposed improvements in accordance with National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) and the CEQ regulations for implementing NEPA (40 CFR 1500-1508) and in coordination with the actions required for compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and the implementing regulations of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's regulation (36 CFR 800). In accordance with these requirements, proposed actions on National Park Service lands must undergo an Environmental Assessment to identify impacts to existing natural, biological, cultural, and environmental resources prior to determining a preferred alternative concept.

The proposed action includes the rehabilitation of a 3.7-mile segment of the existing Rock Creek Trail between P Street and Broad Branch Road and a 3000-foot segment of the existing Rose Park Trail; construction of new trail along Piney Branch Parkway from Beach Drive to Arkansas Avenue at Taylor Street; and construction of a new trail and/or bicycle route adjacent to the exit/entrance ramp connecting P Street to the Rock Creek Parkway. The proposed rehabilitation of existing trails includes resurfacing, trail widening where environmentally feasible, modifications to the trail alignment and road crossings, and additional modifications to improve safety, erosion control and connections to and from the trail. The majority of the proposed improvements occur on National Park Service land, with some additional improvements located on District of Columbia land.

At this stage of the assessment, the National Park Service would appreciate your assistance in identifying important environmental and cultural resources within the project area that should be

addressed as part of the EA or that may be of concern to your agency, citizen group or you as an individual stakeholder. We ask that you please submit your written comments within 21 days of receiving this letter.

Please mail your comments by March 23, 2009 to the consultant preparing the assessment. Responses may be directed to the attention of Eric Feldman, Rhodeside & Harwell, Inc., 320 King Street, Suite 202, Alexandria, VA 22314 (or by email at ericf@rhodeside-harwell.com). If you have any questions regarding the proposed action, please contact Chris Holben at the District Department of Transportation at 202-671-4617.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Adrienne A. Coleman', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Adrienne A. Coleman
Superintendent, Rock Creek Park