

City plans to rehabilitate Rose Park path

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The city is planning to repave the narrow, uneven path that runs along the edge of Rose Park in Georgetown, but National Park Service officials, who have jurisdiction over the park, have quelled rumors that the path will be widened.

"The National Park Service opposes widening the path," said Rock Creek Park superintendent Adrienne Coleman. Neighbors have "nothing to worry about," she added, noting, however, that the repaving is sorely needed.

Work on the path will be part of a joint project of the National Park Service, D.C. Department of Transportation and D.C. Department of Parks and Recreation.

The agencies plan to rehabilitate the Rock Creek Park bicycle trail

from P Street to the intersection of Broad Branch Road and Beach Drive, according to Chris Holben, bicycle program specialist at the Transportation Department.

Proposals for the work include widening the Rose Park path and connecting it to the 25-mile Rock Creek Park trail via a new path along the P Street ramp to Rock Creek Parkway, Holben said.

Last week, the Georgetown advisory neighborhood commission unanimously supported the rehabilitation plan but objected to both widening the path and connecting it to the other trail.

"We are looking forward to reviewing plans for much-needed renovations," commissioner Gunnar Halley wrote in the resolution.

During the Dec. 5 meeting, Friends of Rose Park president Leslie Wheelock said repaving the path would make it safer for the "little ones on tricycles" and elderly

residents.

Residents have also suggested installing signs that would instruct adults to walk their bikes on the path and expanding a fence that runs alongside part of the path to make cycling safer.

Wheelock expressed great concern about the idea of widening the path. She said during the meeting that D.C. Department of Transportation officials told the Friends of Rose Park in October that they were considering widening the path from 4 feet to 6 feet and connecting it to the bicycle trail. She said in an interview that group members felt widening the path would increase cycling traffic, thus endangering the children who use it.

City officials will work with the neighborhood, Holben said.

He said the agencies would complete the entire trail rehabilitation project by next fall at the earliest.