

Appendix D

Form Letter, Petition, and Post Card Comment Letters

Appendix D
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@bikethesites.com
To: rocr_superintendent@nps.gov,
cc:
07/16/2003 01:44 AM GMT
Subject: Help Rock Creek Park

National Park Superintendent Adrienne Coleman
Rock Creek Park 3545 Williamsburg Lane NW Washington, DC 20008

Dear National Park Superintendent Adrienne Coleman,

I am writing to SUPPORT the National Park Service's preferred option to establish weekday recreation zones on Beach Drive in Rock Creek Park. Rock Creek Park is one of the great treasures of the Washington area, but as currently managed, the heart of the Park is available only to motorists five days a week. I commend the Park Service for seeking a balanced approach that will allow pedestrians, cyclists, roller bladers, and people of all ages and physical abilities to experience the Park seven days a week.

Sincerely,
Stephen Marks
Bethesda, Maryland 20814

cc:
Delegate Eleanor Norton
Representative Chris Van Hollen

"Jennifer L Toole"
To: <rocr_superintendent@nps.gov>
Subject: RE: Beach Drive

07/15/2003 03:02 PM AST
Please respond to jtoole

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing to SUPPORT the National Park Service's preferred option to establish weekday recreation zones on Beach Drive in Rock Creek Park. Rock Creek Park is one of the great treasures of the Washington area, but as currently managed, the heart of the Park is available only to motorists five days a week. I commend the Park Service for seeking a balanced approach that will allow pedestrians, cyclists, roller bladers, and people of all ages and physical abilities to experience the Park seven days a week.

* Beach Drive is one of the greatest recreational resources in the Washington, DC area and is used by thousands of people on weekends. Expanding this opportunity to weekdays would enhance quality of life for people all over the Washington metropolitan area.

* Beach Drive's recreation zones are part of a growing network of trails that make Washington and Montgomery County a prime destination for recreation.

* Beach Drive would remain open to motor vehicles 18 hour per day, including peak commuting hours during the morning and evening rush hour.

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* The draft NPS plan is a very modest proposal, since it would provide for recreation zones for only 6 hours per day, during off-peak hours when traffic is relatively light.

* Beach Drive is not just another road for moving cars. It is a road that runs through a woodland, next to a stream, right in the heart of the city. Expanding its availability for recreation is a better use of this wonderful resource.

* Weekday recreation on Beach Drive is supported by more than 30 local environmental, recreation and community organizations.

Thank you very much for your consideration.
Jennifer Toole
Columbia, MD 21044

To: rocr_superintendent@nps.gov
07/15/2003 11:50 AM EDT
Subject: Comments on Rock Creek Park closure proposals -

To: Superintendent, Rock Creek Park
3545 Williamsburg Lane, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20008

From: Carole Shiffrin
Resident of Washington, D.C.

Re: Rock Creek Park closure proposals

I urge the National Park Service to leave intact the current usage of Rock Creek Park. The park is a wonderful place for DC residents and visitors alike, and closing off some of it during weekdays would lessen access for citizens who want to enjoy it. A portion of the park already is closed off to automobiles during weekends and holidays, and while I applaud that bicyclists and walkers can enjoy that portion of the park free of automobile traffic, even that limits its use by many who cannot bicycle or walk the distances required during its closure.

During the week, I often take older friends-people in their 80s-to that portion of the park being considered for closure, where we can enjoy the greenery and the quiet, where we can sit and talk and marvel at those who had the foresight to create our wonderful in-town park. If that access is cut off, it will make the park-envisioned as a green oasis for city dwellers including drivers-accessible only to bicyclists and hardy hikers. They are surely a minority.

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Those who don't fall into that category represent the majority of citizens, and they should be able to enjoy this beautiful resource. The automobile traffic during the hours of the weekday you are considering closing the park is not so great that bicyclists and hikers cannot also enjoy it, along with people who must drive to get to spots along the roads to enjoy their surroundings.

I also think there is a safety and security issue; limiting access during the week will make the park a more lonely spot, more likely to lead to potential dangers. As an avid walker myself, I would feel uncomfortable using the park roads and pathways during the week if broad access is cut off. During the weekend, there are so many people bicycling and walking on those roads that there is "safety in numbers" and no one would feel threatened. The numbers of bicyclists and walkers would be considerably smaller during the week.

I am an environmentalist and have long supported several organizations interesting in saving our wilderness, national parks and preserving greenery in cities for the enjoyment of citizens. I urge you to keep access to Rock Creek Park open, so it may be enjoyed and used by as many as possible.

Sincerely,
Carole A. Shifrin
Washington, D.C. 20015

"Dave Rabinowitz"

To: <rocr_superintendent@nps.gov>

07/11/2003 04:11 PM MST

Subject: Beach Drive Recreation Closure Proposal

Hi,

I support the proposed closure of Beach Drive to motorized vehicles during off-peak periods. I understand that during those hours the usage is about 200 cars per hour, or about one car every 18 seconds. The addition of that number of cars to other city street traffic would not be noticeable, but the availability of a safe place to hike, skate, bike or otherwise enjoy the road would be very noticeable and very welcome. We should preserve Rock Creek as a Park, not a Parkway. I believe a 3-month trial would alleviate the fears of opponents and clearly demonstrate the value of the transfer of the road from transit purposes to people purposes.

Thanks,
Dave Rabinowitz

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This Comment was Created on 04/25/2003

Name: Ben Butler**City:** Morristown**State:** TN**Zip:** 37814

Comments: Dear Superintendent Coleman I support American Whitewater and agree that the General Management Plan for Rock Creek National Park is woefully inadequate in addressing management of Rock Creek. The Plan should specifically authorize canoeing and kayaking in recognition that these activities are a traditional use of the Park and have been for at least 35 years. The namesake river, Rock Creek, is regularly subjected to sewage overflows and urban runoff. It is a tragedy of the first order that the primary river in our Nation's Capitol is not better protected and that the Park Service is not doing more to recognize the problem and improve sanitation such that other recreation activities such as fishing and wading may be permitted in the Park. The Plan should specifically address the continuing issues of water quality and sanitation. The Park must develop a planning mechanism for improving water quality throughout the Park and restoring the creek for fish health and viability, as well as public health. Sincerely, Ben Butler ps. Please keep my address, e-mail address, and phone number private.

ROCR 2134
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Superintendent Adrienne Coleman
Rock Creek Park
3545 Williamsburg Lane NW
Washington, D.C. 20008

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DEAR SUPERINTENDENT COLEMAN, ROCR 2134

I am writing to SUPPORT the National Park Service's preferred option to establish weekday recreation zones on Beach Drive in Rock Creek Park. Rock Creek Park is one of the great treasures of the Washington area, but as currently managed, the heart of the Park is available only to motorists five days a week. I commend the Park Service for seeking a balanced approach that will allow pedestrians, cyclists, roller bladers, and people of all ages and physical abilities to experience the Park seven days a week.

Sincerely,

Name (please print)

Address

Additional comments:

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Keep Beach Drive Open

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To: The National Park Service

The National Park Service would like to close Beach Drive to those who drive on our historic parkways every day. We would like to speak out against this action to stop this from happening. We the undersigned Support Alternative B and want to keep Beach Drive open for all to enjoy.

Sincerely,

The Undersigned

[Click Here to Sign Petition](#)

[View Current Signatures](#)

The Keep Beach Drive Open Petition to The National Park Service was created by and written by Ann Ford. This petition is hosted here at www.PetitionOnline.com as a public service. There is no endorsement of this petition, express or implied, by Artifice, Inc. or our sponsors. For technical support please use our simple [Petition Help](#) form.

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7/14/2003

TO: Mayor Williams and the National Park Service

I am vehemently against the proposed closing of Rock Creek Park to vehicles during week days, non-rush hours, as well as weekday evenings.

Also, I am opposed to any HOV-type Car Pool Restrictions on Rock Creek Roads during weekday mornings and afternoon rush hours.

Maintain the present traffic patterns through Rock Creek Park.

Keep Rock Creek Park open to all people, all ages, all vehicles.

Name: Ann Ford Signature: [Signature]

Address: 2700 31st St NW
please print (include city, state, zip)

Phone No. (with area code) 202 776 1616



JUL 15 2003
BY: [Signature]

To: Superintendent, Rock Creek National Park

We are opposed to the weekday road closure and HOV restrictions as proposed by Alternatives A, C and D of the Draft General Management Plan for Rock Creek Park. We concur with the D.C. and Montgomery County Councils, the D.C. Department of Public Works and Maryland Department of Transportation that these corridors remain open with no new restrictions to motor vehicles. We believe any closure of Beach Drive will result in:

Dangerous Traffic

- A dramatic increase in the number of cars on residential streets resulting from rerouting of Beach Drive traffic.
- An intensified risk of fatalities from cars that speed through these residential streets. Approximately 55% of pedestrian fatalities occur on neighborhood roads. Studies indicate a 45% fatality rate for pedestrians hit by cars traveling at 30 m.p.h.

Neighborhoods Turned into Thoroughfares

- A significant number of our residential streets will be severely impacted, yet the NPS' Draft General Management Plan fails to address this.
- Diverted stop and go traffic will release increased emissions in neighborhoods.

No Benefits for the Park

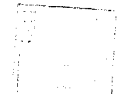
- According to the NPS Draft General Management Plan "...none of the differences to natural resources among the alternatives would be major."
- The NPS Plan acknowledges that the current management practices already preserve the important historic, cultural, and natural resources of Rock Creek Park.

Park View Citizens Association Petition

RocR 2871-1

- Mary Hadar
- Helen K.Mourat
- Bob Neill
- Sheila Millar
- Chris Lekakos
- Charlotte Lekakos
- Christine Tan
- Toivo Tagamets
- Malle Tagamets
- Mike Cosgrove
- Linda Cosgrove
- Nelson Rupp
- Helen Rupp
- Greg Gagarin
- Henning Schonwandt
- Richard Swift

Please contact Bob Neill if you have any questions.



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Adrienne Coleman, Superintendent
3545 Williamsburg Lane NW
Washington, D.C. 20008-1207

The undersigned residents of the Parkview Citizens Association submit the following comments in response to the United States Park Service's recently released draft plan for Rock Creek Park. The NPS chose out of four alternatives, Alternative D, a plan to shut the upper Park to automotive traffic during the day. The same roads currently closed during the weekends will be closed during non-rush hours during the day. We oppose the selection of Alternative D because:

1. This plan will drastically affect traffic patterns in the area, and probably increase traffic on Jones Mill adjoining the park. This will impact our area local transportation and change the community character.
2. The impact and environmental consequences of this on upstream of all of the area administered by and cared for by the National Park Service, has not been measured or taken into account.
3. We are also deeply concerned in the post-9/11 environment about a plan to shut off a major alternative route. This will have enormously damaging consequences should residents of our neighborhood who work downtown be forced to leave the city as a result of a terrorist act or threat.

As neighbors adjoining Rock Creek Park, we love and enjoy the Park. However, many of us rely on Beach Drive not only for commuting into D.C. during rush hour, but for off-hour driving to run errands, pick up children, get to work during flex-time arrangements, or, yes, to enjoy the Park. Alternative D would increase weekday traffic to residential roads as alternate routes adjoining the park, and negatively affect our quality of life. We applaud the efforts of the National Park Service to care for the Park and plan for the future. However, this ill-conceived alternative plan will adversely affect us and we urge its rejection.

There are those, especially bicyclists, who favor shutting the upper Park to autos during the weekday. The neighborhoods immediately adjoining the Park, such as Rollingwood, do not favor the alternative chosen because all traffic would be routed through their streets. Most do not have sidewalks.

The Park Service dismisses any ability to construct a bike path parallel to Beach Drive. They minimize the amount of traffic impact on side streets from Alternative D. Their studies seem to me to be shaped or shaded to get the outcome they want.

NPS is to be lauded in addressing the rising tide of commuter traffic, and in wanting to preserve the Park. The reasons they chose this alternative is because it is cheap and easy to manage. Yes they will enhance the ability of bicyclists to enjoy the Park, but only during the middle of the day when most cyclists have to work. It will not enable the majority of park bicyclists to safely ride during commuting hours.

Alternative D does not serve the community or the Park. There would be adverse impacts on neighborhoods and roads adjoining the park. NPS should work with local communities to implement better solutions.

NPS will only take note of "substantive comments". These are defined as comments that:

- Reasonably question accuracy of information in the document
- Reasonably question the accuracy of the environmental analysis
- Present reasonable alternatives
- Cause changes or revisions

Comments in favor of or against the proposed action or alternatives, or that only agree or disagree with NPS policy, are not considered substantive.

This petition, therefore challenges NPS adoption of Alternative D on the following basis:

Please sign the attached petition:



As the nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has the responsibility for most of our nationally owned public lands and natural resources. This includes fostering sound use of our land and water resources; protecting our fish, wildlife, and biological diversity; preserving the environmental and cultural values of our national parks and historical places; and providing for the enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation. The department assesses our energy and mineral resources and works to ensure that their development is in the best interests of all our people by encouraging stewardship and citizen participation in their care. The department also has a major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in island territories under U.S. administration.