



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

National Capital Parks-East
1900 Anacostia Drive, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20020

IN REPLY REFER TO:

L76 (NCR-NACE/RM)

January 18, 2013

Dear Sir or Madam:

National Capital Parks-East, in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) announces the availability of the Roadway and Drainage Improvements Environmental Assessment (EA) at Greenbelt Park, Maryland for public review and comment.

This document analyzes the potential impacts of proposed transportation-related improvements within Greenbelt Park in Prince George's County, Maryland. The purpose and need for the proposed project is to improve the safety of motorists, cyclists and pedestrians using Park roads, and improve visitor experience while minimizing impacts to natural resources within the Park. The existing transportation related facilities, including roadways, parking lots, and drainage structures, have degraded and are approached the end of the service lives, and have the potential to result in unsafe conditions for visitors.

This EA examines the No Action Alternative (Alternative A) and two action alternatives; Alternative B and Alternative C. Alternative B would include resurfacing the roadways and parking lots, guardrail replacement and replacing the dual culverts at Still Creek with new culverts. Alternative C would include removing the culverts and constructing a new bridge that spans Still Creek in addition to the implementation of the actions in Alternative B. Alternative C is the Preferred Alternative. Implementation of the Preferred Alternative would result in negligible to minor, adverse impacts to some resources in the short- and long-term.

The improvements would include rehabilitation of the roadways, parking lots, guardrails and drainage structures along the Main Entrance Road (Route 10), Park Central Road (Route 11), Sweetgum Picnic Loop (Route 200), Laurel Picnic Area (Route 201) as well as the Holly Picnic Parking and Dogwood Nature Trail Parking. The preferred alternative involves replacing an existing double culvert with a bridge over Still Creek. The proposed activities would include temporary road closures and detours.

Among the components of the studies were the identification of a purpose and need for the project, analysis of alternatives to meet those needs, and analysis of the environmental consequences of those alternatives, all of which are documented in the EA, in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act, and the National Historic Preservation Act. Public involvement and coordination with local, state, and federal agencies has been ongoing throughout the study, and at this stage, citizens will be given the opportunity to review the findings of the EA.

Access to the Document:

Public review copies of the Draft EA will be available at the following locations:

Greenbelt Park Ranger Station
565 Greenbelt Road
Greenbelt, MD 2077

National Capital Parks-East Headquarters
1900 Anacostia Drive, SE
Washington, D.C. 20020

Available electronically at:

<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/greenbeltea>

Mailed directly to:

National Capital Parks-East
Alexcy Romero, Superintendent
Re: Greenbelt EA
1900 Anacostia Drive SE
Washington, D.C. 20020

Note to Reviewers and Respondents:

If you wish to comment on the Draft EA, you may submit them electronically or mail comments directly. Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment – including your personal identifying information – may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

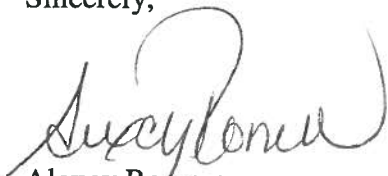
Comments on the Roadway and Drainage Improvements Environmental Assessment (EA) at Greenbelt Park, may be submitted on-line by following the appropriate links at (*The NPS preferred method of receiving comments*):

<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/greenbeltea>

Comments on the Draft EA will be accepted through February 18, 2012.

Thank you for your interest and participation in this process.

Sincerely,



Alexcy Romero
Superintendent

bcc:
NACE File
RM File
FOWA
NCR-LRP-Gorder