



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

National Capital Region
George Washington
Memorial Parkway
McLean, Virginia

Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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George Washington Memorial Parkway Press Release

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The National Park Service Announces the Availability of the Environmental Assessment/Assessment of Effect (EA/AoE) for its Proposal to Permit the Building of a Section of the MacArthur Boulevard Shared-Use Path on NPS Land; Public Review and Comment Sought

McLean, VA -- The National Park Service (NPS) announces the availability of the MacArthur Boulevard Shared-Use Path at Glen Echo Park Environmental Assessment/Assessment of Effect (EA/AoE) for public review. The NPS and The Montgomery County (Maryland) Department of Transportation (MCDOT) have coordinated on designing the realignment of an 800-foot-long segment of the MacArthur Boulevard Shared-Use Path (a Montgomery County project) on NPS land at Clara Barton National Historic Site and Glen Echo Park – both units are administered by the George Washington Memorial Parkway (GWMP).

GWMP will hold an EA/AoE information Public Meeting in an “Open House” format at which NPS and Montgomery County staff will be on hand to answer questions, and the public can submit written comments on the EA/AoE. The location, time, and date is presented below:

Thursday, January 24, 2013

6:00-8:00 p.m.


Glen Echo Park – North Arcade Room 202

7300 MacArthur Blvd

Glen Echo, MD 20812

Two alternatives are evaluated in the EA/AoE: a no-action alternative and one action alternative (the NPS preferred alternative) in which developing the path would be accomplished by constructing segments on previously disturbed land and within an inactive right-of-way. The route would be relocated from MacArthur Boulevard to NPS property, where it would parallel MacArthur Boulevard from Oxford Road along the northeastern edge of the Clara Barton National Historic Site parking lot. Heading southeast, the path would cross over an historic trolley bridge, located above Minnehaha Creek. Montgomery County would restore, to NPS specifications, the bridge for adaptive reuse as a shared-use path. Before returning to MacArthur Boulevard, the path would pass through a small parking lot on U.S. Army Corps of Engineers land used via agreement by NPS.

Impacts of the action alternative on cultural and natural resources are limited to the extent possible while achieving the project purpose of shared-use path improvement. The EA/AoE has been prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, and implementing regulations, 40 CFR 1500-1508, and NPS Director's Order #12 and Handbook, Conservation Planning, Environmental Impact Analysis, and Decision-making (DO-12). Compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 is being completed with this NEPA process and the associated Assessment of Effect is detailed in the EA/AoE. The EA/AoE will be available for public review and comment from Wednesday, January 9, 2013, through midnight on- Friday, February 8, 2013. To review and comment on the EA/AoE, the public is directed to the National Park Service Planning, Environment and Public Comment (PEPC) site (the NPS preferred method of receiving comments) at: [http://parkplanning.nps.gov/MacarthurBlvd Bikeway Improvements](http://parkplanning.nps.gov/MacarthurBlvdBikewayImprovements).



Written comments may be mailed to: Superintendent, the National Park Service, George Washington Memorial Parkway c/o Turkey Run Park, McLean, VA 22101. Mailed comments must be postmarked by Friday, February 8, 2013 to receive consideration.

Public review hard copies of the EA/AoE will also be available at the following locations:

700 George Washington Memorial Parkway
c/o Turkey Run Park
McLean, VA 22101

Little Falls Library
5501 Massachusetts Avenue
Bethesda, MD 20816

Glen Echo Park
Park Ranger Office
7300 MacArthur Boulevard
Glen Echo, MD 20813

Glen Echo Partnership for Arts and Culture
Second Floor, Arcade Building
7300 MacArthur Boulevard
Glen Echo, MD 20812

Town of Hall Glen Echo
6106 Harvard Avenue
Glen Echo, MD 20812

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.