



Welcome

TO THE OPEN HOUSE FOR THE

Fort Totten – North Michigan Park Pedestrian Access Improvements Project

Agenda

6:30 – 7:00pm Open House

7:00 – 7:30pm Presentation

- Project Background
- Purpose and Need
- Proposed Actions
- Opportunities to Comment

7:30: 8:00pm Open House



Project Background

The National Park Service (NPS) Rock Creek Park is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the **Fort Totten - North Michigan Park Pedestrian Access Improvements** located between Galloway and Gallatin Streets, N.E. and South Dakota Avenue, N.E. and the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) in the Michigan Park neighborhood in Washington, D.C.

- To access the Metrorail station from the Michigan Park neighborhood pedestrians must walk around the perimeter of the project area
- Instead of walking around the park, pedestrians have created a social trail through the park
- High levels of pedestrian activity on the previously unlit social trail resulted in increased crime.
- Temporary lighting was added by NPS and WMATA along the social trail to prevent crime.



Project Area



LEGEND

 Project Area



Existing Conditions



View from Galloway Street looking south at social trail and temporary lighting.

Example of trash dumped in the area.



Example of materials placed by public to create walking path.

View from social trail looking north towards Galloway Street. Example of soil compaction over tree roots.



Purpose



The purpose of the proposed actions is to improve pedestrian access to the Fort Totten Metrorail Station from the North Michigan Park neighborhood in Northeast Washington, D.C. and to address public safety concerns.



Need



Action is needed to provide a direct pedestrian pathway from the Michigan Parks neighborhood to the Fort Totten Metrorail Station. To help reduce crime incidences, pedestrian pathways with direct sight lines and lighting are needed. Providing a dedicated pedestrian trail may also help reduce resource damage caused by the use of social trails including:

- Cutting branches and mowing vegetation to widen social trails
- Placement of various materials such as bricks, wooden planks, and pebbles to create walkable social trails in areas that are muddy
- Dumping of trash and debris off of the social trails



Laws and Procedures



NEPA NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT

NHPA NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT



Policy

NEPA National Environmental Policy Act

THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL
POLICY ACT OF 1969, AS AMENDED
(42 U.S.C. 4321 ET SEQ.)

CEQ Council on Environmental Quality

"REGULATIONS FOR IMPLEMENTING
THE PROCEDURAL PROVISIONS OF
NEPA" (40 CFR 1500-1508).

DO-12 Department of the Interior, Director's Order 12

DIRECTOR'S ORDER #12:
CONSERVATION PLANNING,
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT
ANALYSIS, AND DECISION-
MAKING

Process

1. PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

2. DEFINE PURPOSE & NEED – FOR THE PROPOSED ACTION, DETERMINE PROJECT AREA, DEFINE FRAMEWORK WITHIN WHICH REASONABLE ALTERNATIVES CAN BE DEVELOPED, AND DEVELOP PRELIMINARY ALTERNATIVES

3. INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL (PUBLIC) SCOPING - TO INTRODUCE PROJECT AND IDENTIFY ISSUES

4. DEFINE PRELIMINARY ALTERNATIVES

5. DATA COLLECTION - BEGIN RESOURCE INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS, DETERMINE RESOURCE TOPICS AFFECTED BY THE PROPOSED ACTION, AND INITIATE DATA COLLECTION/ RESEARCH NEEDED TO CARRY IMPACT ANALYSIS FORWARD

6. DESCRIBE THE AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT, REFINE ALTERNATIVES, AND PREPARE IMPACT ANALYSIS OF AFFECTED RESOURCE TOPICS

7. PREPARE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (EA) FOR INTERNAL AGENCY REVIEW, PREPARE FINAL EA FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

8. RELEASE EA FOR 30-DAY PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

9. REVIEW ALL PUBLIC COMMENTS RECEIVED ON THE EA AND RESPOND TO COMMENTS

10. PREPARE AND FINALIZE APPROPRIATE DECISION DOCUMENT

Section 106

Policy

NHPA National Historic Preservation Act

SECTION 106
REGULATIONS, 36 CFR PART
800

Process

1. DEFINE UNDERTAKING / INITIATE SEC 106

2. INVOLVE THE PUBLIC

3. IDENTIFY CONSULTING PARTIES

4. DEFINE AREA OF POTENTIAL EFFECT (APE)

5. IDENTIFY SIGNIFICANT CULTURAL RESOURCES IN THE APE

6. ASSESS EFFECTS ON SIGNIFICANT RESOURCES

7. APPLY CRITERIA OF ADVERSE EFFECT

8. CONTINUE CONSULTATION

9. DRAFT AGREEMENT DOCUMENT, IF NEEDED

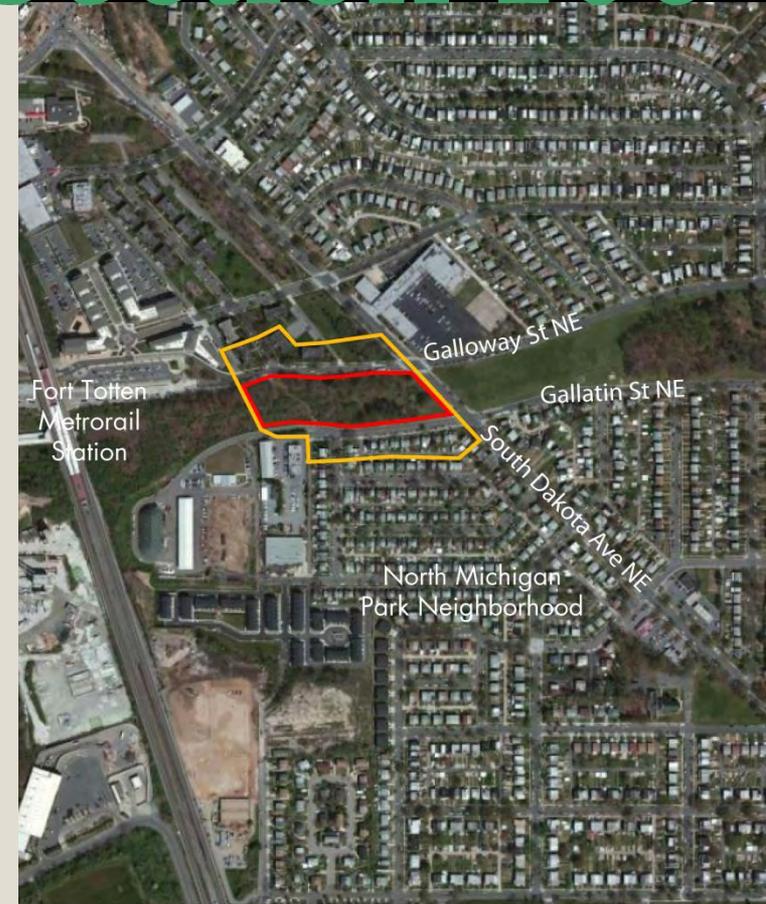


Section 106

Area of Potential Effect

According to 36 CFR 800.16(d), the **Area of Potential Effect (APE)** is the geographic area or areas within which an undertaking may directly or indirectly cause changes in the character or use of historic properties, if such properties exist. The Area of Potential Effect is influenced by the scale and nature of the undertaking and may be different for different kinds of effects caused by the undertaking.

The draft area of potential effect (APE) consists of the portion of portion of Fort Circle Parks/Civil War Defenses of Washington park land roughly bounded to the east by South Dakota Avenue, NE; to the south by parcels facing Gallatin St., NE; Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) property to the west; and buildings facing Galloway St., NE to the north. While part of the larger Rock Creek Park system, this section is separated from the park to the east by South Dakota Avenue. Park land to the west, which includes historic Fort Totten, is physically and visually separated by the WMATA right of way.



LEGEND

-  Project Area
-  Draft Area of Potential Effect (APE)

NORTH



Proposed Alternative Options

The National Park Service (NPS) is proposing four alternative options:

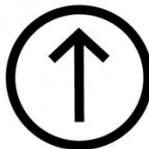
- No Action
- Improved Street-Side Pedestrian Facilities Access/Fence Off Area
- Direct Trail
- Construct A Trail System



LEGEND

-  Project Area
-  No Action/Existing Social Trails
-  Improve Street-Side Pedestrian Facilities Access, Fence Off Area
-  Direct Trail
-  Construct a Trail System

NORTH



No Action

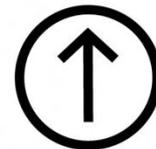
Current management remains in effect, which includes mowing the unofficial trails from South Dakota Avenue to Galloway Street, NE. There would be no maintenance of the social trail between Galloway Street and the intersection of Gallatin Street and 6th Place, NE. The lighting towers currently in place from NPS and WMATA are temporary and would not remain.



LEGEND

-  Project Area
-  No Action/Existing Social Trails
-  Improve Street-Side Pedestrian Facilities Access, Fence Off Area
-  Direct Trail
-  Construct a Trail System

NORTH



Improve Street-side Pedestrian Access

Fence around the entire project area to protect park resources. The fence would follow the project area along Galloway Street, South Dakota Avenue, and Gallatin Street. The option could also include installing a sidewalk along the north side of Gallatin Street. (As part of a separate project, the District Department of Transportation is examining installing a sidewalk on the south side of Galloway Street.) There is an existing sidewalk along the south side of Gallatin Street, along the DDOT right of way. This option could also include the installation of lighting along the perimeter of the project area.



LEGEND

-  Project Area
-  No Action/Existing Social Trails
-  Improve Street-Side Pedestrian Facilities Access, Fence Off Area
-  Direct Trail
-  Construct a Trail System



Direct Trail

Construct a direct trail through the project area that allows for the greatest unobstructed line-of-sight as possible from the beginning to the end of the trail. The trail does not have to follow a current trail alignment. The option may include formalizing one of the short existing social trails, and could include trail lighting. The trail should take into account existing topography to allow for sufficient sight lines and proper grade for universal accessibility.



LEGEND

-  Project Area
-  No Action/Existing Social Trails
-  Improve Street-Side Pedestrian Facilities Access, Fence Off Area
-  Direct Trail
-  Construct a Trail System



Construct a Trail System

Construct a trail system with amenities in the eastern section of the project area. This option would examine existing and potential trail alignments that are compatible with the topography and existing stormwater management structures, do not interfere with Metrorail access facilities on the west side of the project area, and allow for an unobstructed line-of-sight. This option could include various amenities such as benches, lighting, and picnic tables. The area could also be cleared of invasive, non-native vegetation, resulting in an appearance similar to the grassed and forested areas of the Civil War Defenses of Washington land east of South Dakota Avenue.



LEGEND

-  Project Area
-  No Action/Existing Social Trails
-  Improve Street-Side Pedestrian Facilities Access, Fence Off Area
-  Direct Trail
-  Construct a Trail System

NORTH



Opportunities to Comment

YOUR COMMENTS ARE ESSENTIAL TO THIS PROCESS.

Please submit comments prior to **May 2, 2014** at:

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

OR MAIL TO:

ATTN: Fort Totten – North Michigan Park
Pedestrian Access Improvements Project
Rock Creek Park
3545 Williamsburg Lane, NW
Washington, D.C., 20008-1207

